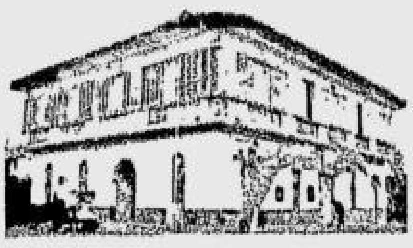


ACROSS / A17

History, poetry under one roof

BUSINESS / B1

Forex reserves hit all-time high of $32.4B

ACROSS / A15

'Reming' relief goods wasting in town warehouse

WORLD / A23

Top Pakistani judge calls for uprising

NEWS / A2

BIR told: Step up collection or else...

Oil prices near $98/barrel as dollar falls to new lows

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES YESTERDAY surged to a record high above $98 per barrel in Asian trade, moving to within striking distance of the landmark $100 level in what one dealer described as a "crazy" market.

Two factors lured speculators to the fray and pushed oil prices to a new trading

OIL PRICES/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, November 8, 2007 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 333 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Die and you'll be arrested! Britain's most stupid laws

MARAMING TOPAK NA BATAS PALA!

LONDON—QUEEN ELIZABETH II's speech before Parliament on Tuesday may have been routine but at least nobody got bored to death. That would have been against the law.

Dying in Parliament is

DIE/ A8

Senate probes cash gifts

Inquiry to focus on source of money

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SENATE WILL PUSH through with its investigation of the alleged bribes handed out to congressmen and local government officials in Malacañang to trace the real source of the bundles of cash stuffed in envelopes and brown bags.

A number of senators have questioned the series of explanations made by Malacañang and its allies on the origin of the alleged payola which they believe was made at the behest of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But Sen. Edgardo Angara, an administration ally, called the proposed inquiry a "waste of time," saying the matter was best left to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan pointed out that Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno had initially said House Speaker Jose

SENATE/ A8

Palace admits cash doles from Kampi

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG CONCEDED YESTERDAY that the money distributed to proadministration congressmen at the Palace following a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo came from her party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

But Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno lashed at his own party mates for leaving him "out of the loop."

PALACE/ A8

We Love You Manette
What Father among you would
hand his son a snake when he ask for fish?
hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg?
If you then, who are wicked, know how to
give good gifts to your children, how
much more will the Father in heaven give
the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?
D

A PHOTOGRAPH of little Mariannet Amper, set atop her casket, is marked by a declaration of love and lament for a child who had lost all hope.

INQUIRER MINDANAO PHOTO

Girl, 11, loses hope, hangs herself

By Nico Alconaba
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—AN UNSENT LETTER and a diary, like pages from a book, revealed the reason Mariannet Amper, 11, committed suicide on Nov. 2: She had lost hope that her family would ever rise from poverty.

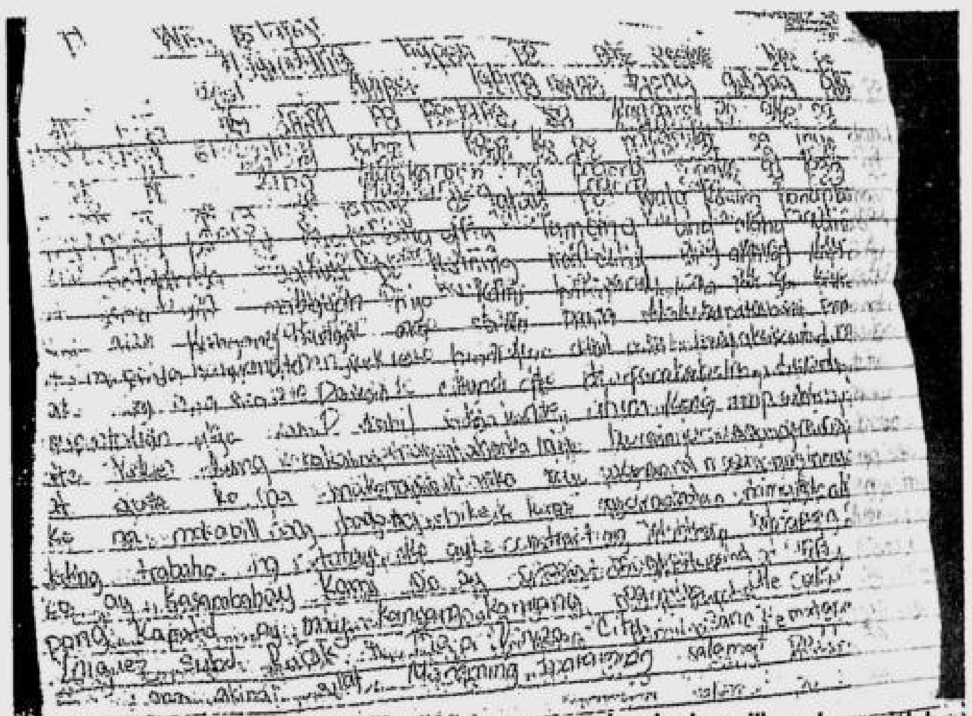
Her parents wanted to know why their daughter took her own life until they collected her belongings and stumbled upon the diary and the letter she wrote to "Wish Ko Lang," a GMA TV program.

The TV program promises to grant the wishes of viewers if their letters were chosen and featured in the program's episodes. Mariannet had heard of the show.

In her undated letter, Mariannet's wish list was short—a bicycle, a school bag, and jobs for her parents.

The unsent letter was found un-

GIRL/ A19



HER WISTFUL, unsent letter to "Ate" Vicky was found under her pillow along with her diary.

INQUIRER MINDANAO PHOTO

11M Pinoys among 1B living on less than $1/day

By Minerva Generalao and Eliza Victoria
Inquirer Research

SOME 11 MILLION FILIPINOS ARE among the 1 billion people across the globe living on less than $1 a day, the threshold defined as extreme poverty by the United Nations, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Three-fourths of the world's poorest live in Sub-Saharan Africa, the only region where ultra poverty predominates, said the study titled "The World's Most Deprived: Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Poverty and Hunger," which the IFPRI released on Tuesday.

Among 119 developing countries

11M PINOYS/A10

'We are all to blame for her death'

By Beverly T. Natividad

NOT ONLY THE GOVERNMENT, but somehow we are all to blame for the fate of an 11-year-old girl in Davao, who took her own life because she was poor.

This is the moral lesson conveyed by some of the country's religious leaders, amid the sad news.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz called the suicide a "summit of desperation"—for a young child to end her own life out of hunger and poverty.

He said the sad event showed the desperation of many Filipinos.

While the act of suicide did

WE ARE ALL/ A8

FUELS4
Inquirer Read Along
Read More
BE MORE

UNITED STATES Ambassador Kristie Kenney reads a story on how to fight global warming to Baguio City schoolchildren during the INQUIRER Read Along program at the Pines City on Wednesday.

VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

US envoy teaches Baguio kids eco-warfare

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—SOME OF THE CITY'S public schoolchildren learned something new about modern warfare while listening to US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney read a story about Filipino "eco-warriors" who fight global warming.

Kenney was the latest guest reader of the INQUIRER's Read Along program, which was sponsored this time by the US Agency for International Development (Usaid) and the US Department of Energy on its first out-of-town session at SM City Baguio on Wednesday.

The program is a newspaper advocacy started in May, which promotes reading as a lifestyle.

US ENVOY/ A18

US Senate terms on aid dismay RP Chief Justice

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—CHIEF JUSTICE REYNATO Puno has expressed dismay over the fact that the US Senate was setting rights-related conditions on the release of $2 million in additional military aid to the Philippines.

"I am not happy [about this]," Puno said on Tuesday after a four-hour lecture on the writ of amparo. He said the Philippines did not need institutions like the US Senate "to remind us about human rights."

At the same time, Puno said, he wanted to view the matter "as a way of encouraging the Philippines to give more protection to human rights."

"That means we still have a lot to do in order to protect human rights in the

US SENATE/ A18

Military presents report but lawyer says it's 'incomplete'

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER HEDGING FOR MORE THAN three months, the military's Provost Marshal General yesterday presented to the Court of Appeals the report believed by the family of missing activist Jonas Burgos as crucial to the search for him.

But a lawyer of the Burgos family said the report submitted by Col. Arthur Abadilla, the Provost Marshal General, was "incomplete," and asked the court to summon the affidavits of the soldiers who were investigated for the loss of the license plates of a vehi-

MILITARY/ A18

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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BIR told: Step up collection or else...

GMA surprised at agency's low tax collection for 3rd quarter

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP MUTINEERS surrender, will be sent home /A7

ARTISTS' groups bewail alterations on NPC mural /A5

MAID IN HK gets jail term for blackmail /A11

By Michael Lim Ubac

TAXES COLLECTED FROM THE country's top companies fell short of the target for the past three quarters, prompting a displeased President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the BIR's Large Taxpayers' Services to step up efforts and catch up in the last quarter, or else.

The President was surprised at the low tax collection of the LTS, which takes charge of revenue collection for the country's biggest taxpaying companies, since "there is growth in those sectors" because of the robust economy, said Secretary Cerge Remonde, chief of the Presidential Management Staff.

"There is time to catch up. They really have to deliver or else be replaced," said Remonde of the LTS following a closed-door command conference on Tuesday in which BIR Commissioner Lillian Hefti presented her revenue report.

The report showed that for September alone, the LTS missed its target by P990 million, or 3.62 percent off its monthly target of P27.297 billion.

LTS collected P26.307 billion in September, an improvement from the P22.640 billion collected in the same month last year but still short of the target.

Overall, from January to September 2007, the LTS collected P312.235 billion, up from P289.660 billion in 2006.

But since the target for the period was P339.105 billion, LTS had a shortfall of P26.870 billion, or 7.92 percent.

Hefti said in the report that the Bureau of Internal Revenue would need to double its tax-collection efforts to achieve its full-year target of P755 billion.

For the first three quarters of 2007, the BIR has collected only P521.910 billion, though an improvement over the P480.752 billion in the same period last year.

She set a simple action plan from October to December: "to meet [the] revenue target."

"They had to explain to the President and promised that they will do better" and "recover" in the fourth quarter, said Remonde.

Remonde said the President will be regularly monitoring the performance of the bureau, particularly the LTS, "so that they can deliver."

He said Ms Arroyo was optimistic that "they will eventually reach [the] target" to fulfill the government's higher fund requirements for its planned increased spending in social services and infrastructure.

Ms Arroyo earlier issued Executive Order 625 reorganizing the BIR, specifically the LTS because of its continued inability to meet targets.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo points to a powerpoint presentation behind Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap during the Anti-Hunger Task Force Meeting held at the Manila Hotel yesterday. LYN RILLON

Cesar Charlie Lim is now officer in charge-head revenue executive assistant (OIC-HREA) of the "regular large taxpayers" group under the LTS.

Marissa Cabreros has been named head revenue executive assistant of a second LTS group, the administration and enforcement service.

A third LTS group is headed by Elvira Vera who has been moved from being HREA of the policy and planning service to HREA of the excise large taxpayers group, which reviews the payments of big excise taxpayers in tobacco and oil.

DOH demands share in 'sin taxes'

HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE TAKING the Bureau of Internal Revenue to task for failing to release some P52 million representing the Department of Health's share of the "sin taxes" collected by the government in 2005.

Health Undersecretary Alex Padilla said in a briefing yesterday that despite their repeated requests to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the agency has yet to release the "sin tax" money which the DOH is supposed to use for its anti-smoking campaign and other public health programs.

Padilla said that under Republic Act Nos. 9334 and 9337, the DOH and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) are supposed to receive 2.5 percent each from the incremental revenues (or the additional collections from one year to the next) from the sin taxes.

PhilHealth, he said, also has not received its P52-million share of the sin taxes.

"There is no clear indication until now when it will be given," he said.

The BIR, he said, maintained that the release of the funds needs another set of guidelines on top of what is mandated under the law.

More recently, he said, the BIR had claimed that the department's share in the sin taxes was already included in its budget allocation.

"But if this is so, then that is against the law because under the law, those funds should be given to us over and above our budget," said Padilla. *Beverly T. Natividad*

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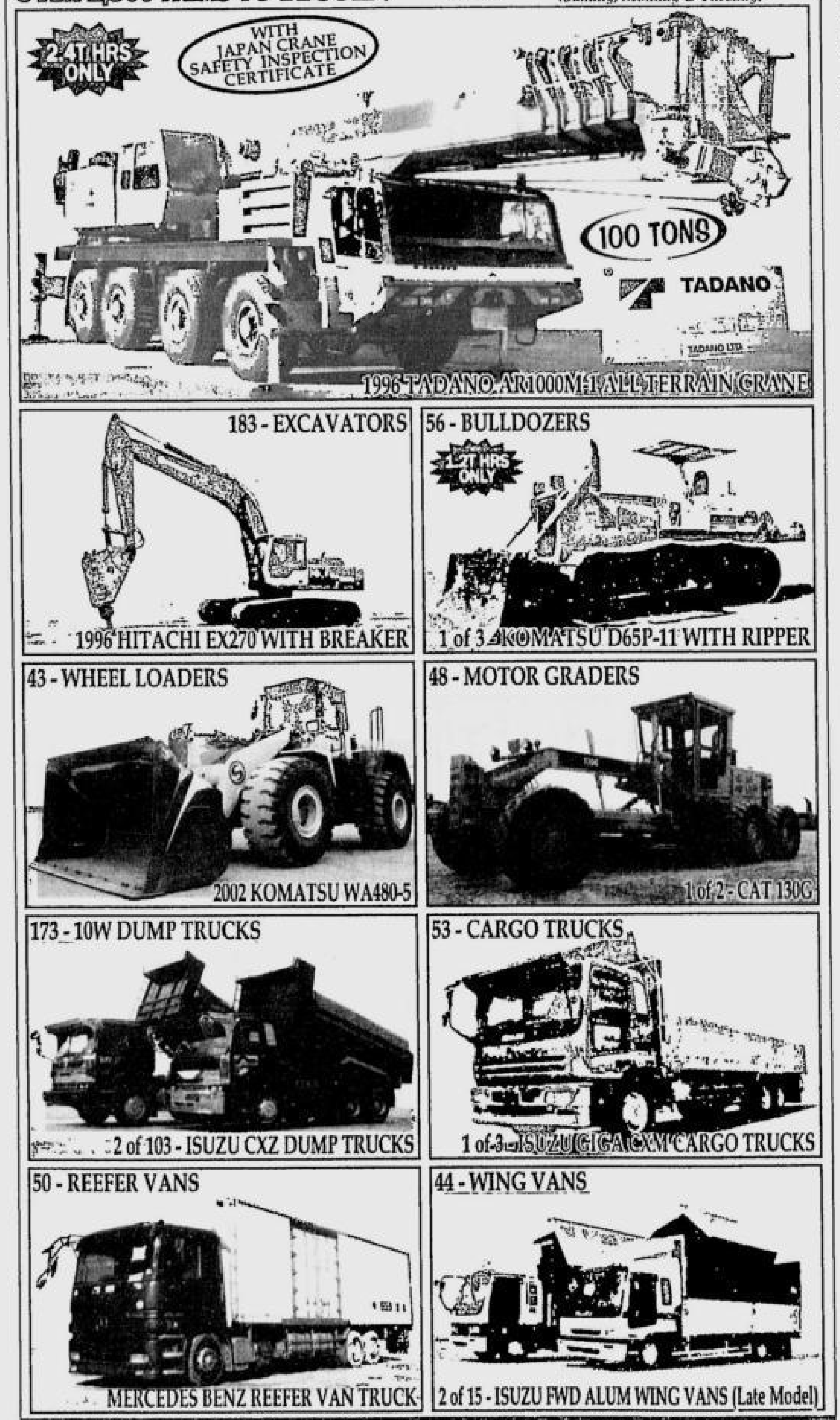
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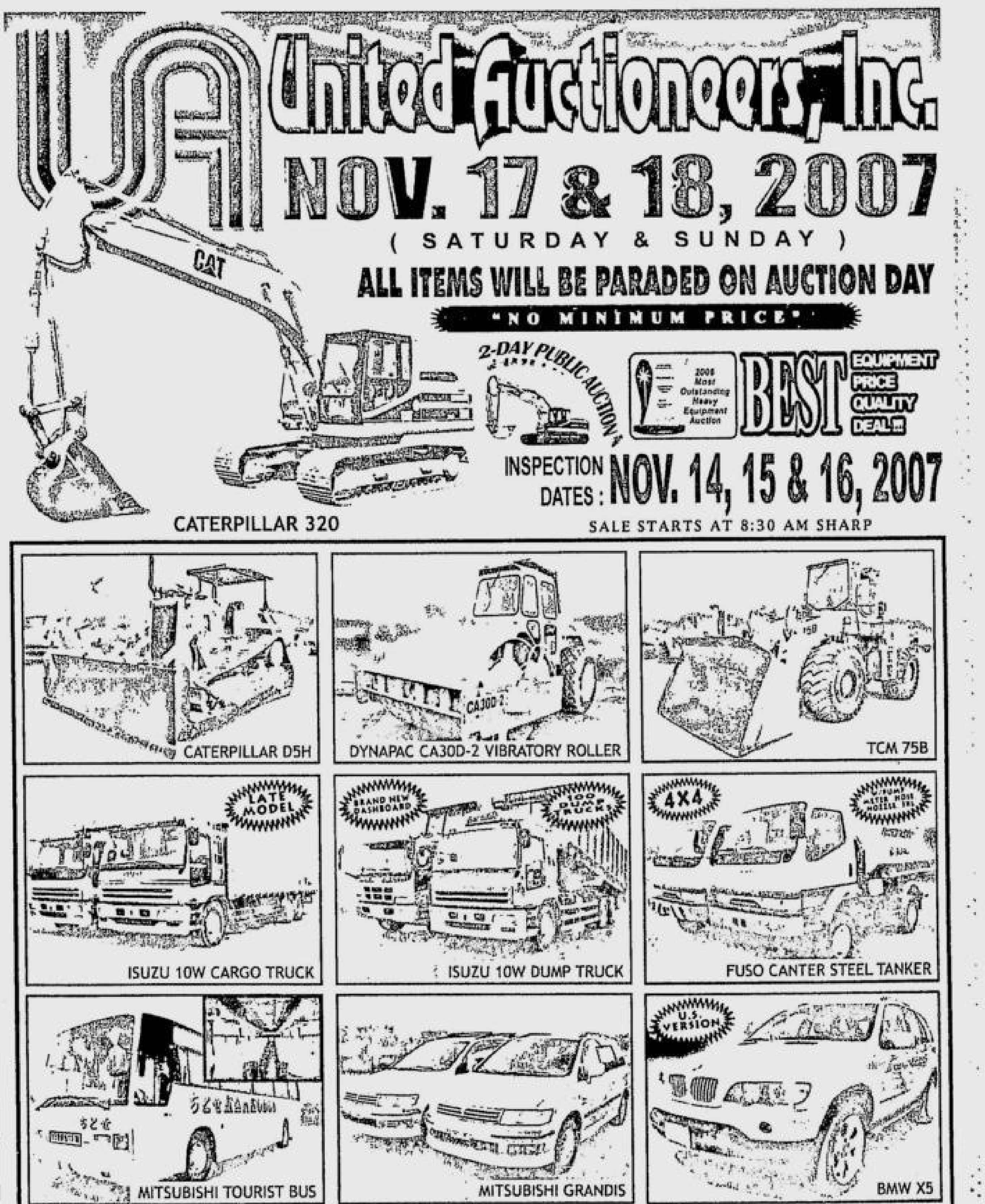
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Raps filed vs erring employers

THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM has filed criminal charges against more than 400 employers for various offenses related to their workers' SSS contributions.

SSS president and chief executive officer Corazon dela Paz said 412 employers face charges for failing to remit payments, refusing to show records to SSS officers, submission of inaccurate employment data and lack of SSS registration.

"We don't tolerate employers who deny their employees SSS benefits because of neglect or disobedience," Dela Paza said in a statement.

She said they expected to collect more than P60 million from 264 employers who failed to pay contributions and loan payments. SSS imposes monthly penalties of three percent on late contributions and one percent for unpaid loans.

The law requires employers to report all employees for SSS coverage and allows SSS officers to check company records. Grossly negligent employers face up to 12 years in jail and fines from P5,000 to P20,000.

Dela Paz said SSS planned to intensify its legal actions against delinquent employers, after Malacañang gave it exemption from paying a filing fee for cases in the prosecutor's office since February.

SSS has 47 cluster lawyers all over the country whose principal task is to file legal cases against erring employers.

Jerome Aning

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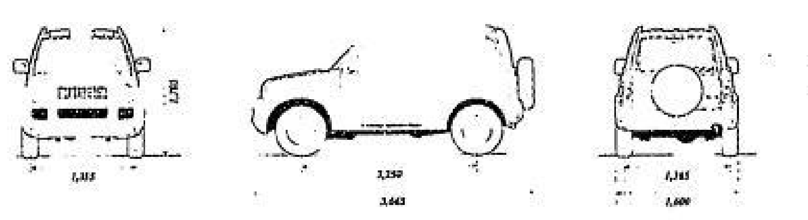

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Artists' groups bewail altered mural

By TJ Burgonio

THE ANGONO ARTISTS HAVE gotten a swell of support from several artists' groups protesting the way the National Press Club (NPC) of the Philippines altered their mural entitled "Press Freedom."

Expressions of support for the Neo-Angono Artists Collective have flooded the group's website, condemning the Club for "censorship," and calling for the ouster of its officials.

The controversial 8 x 32 feet mural depicts a man reading a newspaper in a crowded street. Depicted in the crowd are national heroes and press freedom icons.

The night before President Arroyo was to unveil the mural on Oct. 26, the NPC officials made these alterations without consulting the Angono artists: In the newspaper read by the central figure, the editorial of the International Federation of Journalists on the new Human Security Act was replaced with the picture of a bird-monster in a cage; the Alibata "K" on the arm of Andres Bonifacio was replaced with a pierced heart; The initials of the militant National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) was erased from a streamer; and the headline "Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted" was replaced with "Press Freedom Fight is On." Mustaches and goatees were added to the faces of figures representing writers critical of government, like Randy David and Juan Mercado, making them look sinister.

More revisions were also discovered yesterday: the plate number of an FX taxi "ZTE-200" was blurred red. A cab with body number "EO 464" was altered to "EON-464." A xerox shop in the mural named "Ang Bayan" was changed to "Ang Bayani." A man in the background who looked like the bearded Osama Bin Laden was covered with a red shawl.

Despicable

One group calling itself the Artists' ARREST Alliance said "The intention in these alterations is clear: to remove any references to issues that take to task the Arroyo regime, as well as to deface or altogether eliminate the likenesses of personalities and organizations known to be sharply critical of the ruling political clique," it said.

"This is censorship, however, the NPC may try to slice it."

It added: "It is thus doubly despicable that the NPC, which claims to be a bastion of press freedom, has allowed itself to be a party to such a brazen travesty of artistic freedom."

Artists from another group calling itself TutoK said in an e-mail: "If we are besieged by extra-judicial killings and abductions at large, NPC's current leadership has enacted the killing and abduction of the constitutional right to freedom of expression by hiring other artists to deface the work of the Neo-Angono artists."

Heartened

Wire Tuazon, chair of the Neo-Angono Artists Collective, said the group had been heartened by all the support.

"We are thankful to everyone who is supporting us in our fight. This is not just the fight of our group, but every Filipino artist. If this issue will give direction on the freedom of expression of every artist, then let history give its final verdict," he said.

In a press conference yesterday, NPC president Roy Mabasa denied the alterations were a form of "censorship." He said he had told the artists he did not want the mural to have "political color."

'Mortal sin'

Mabasa said including living personalities in the mural was also not part of their agreement so they were forced to hire an unnamed artist to do last-minute revisions when the Neo-Angono group refused to send representatives.

But in another e-mail to the artists, the Concerned Artists of the Philippines (CAP) chided the Club for its failure to recognize the basic ethic that revising an original artwork of an artist by another is a "mortal sin."

With a report by Allison W. Lopez

Allies of GMA clash over impeach rules

THREE DAYS AFTER PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia agreed to a truce, their allies in the House of Representatives clashed over a proposal to amend the impeachment rules, a potentially explosive issue tied up with the pending effort to impeach the President.

The head count in that skirmish? Eighty-two lawmakers, most of them belonging to President Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party, blocked the move to amend the rules and sent the proposal back to the committee on rules.

They overwhelmed 50 of their colleagues who favored amendments that could allow the consolidation of multiple impeachment complaints, strengthening present moves to oust Ms Arroyo.

At present, House rules allow only one impeachment complaint per year.

Half of those who favored amending the rules were opposition congressmen. But the other half were stalwarts of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, led by De Venecia.

"A realignment of forces was seen yesterday," Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez told a media forum yesterday. "The voting showed not only a crack but a crater in the majority."

During Tuesday's session, Kampi objected to the inclusion of proposed amendments to the impeachment rules in the order of business the other day.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, November 8, 2007
31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 14:7-12
Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Tax collectors and sinners were seeking the company of Jesus, all of them eager to hear what he had to say. But the Pharisees and the scribes frowned at this, muttering, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable:

"Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, will not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and seek out the lost one till he finds it? And finding it, will he not joyfully carry it home on his shoulders? Then he will call his friends and neighbors together and say: 'Celebrate with me for I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, just so, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine upright who do not need to repent.

"What woman, if she has 10 silver coins and loses one, will not light a lamp and sweep the house in a thorough search till she finds the lost coin? And finding it, she will call her friends and neighbors and say: 'Celebrate with me for I have found the silver coin I lost!' I tell you, in the same way there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner."

Commentary

We are the servants of the Lord and we are responsible in everything to the Lord. Are we mindful that we belong totally to God? How often do we ignore our own duties to God and are quick to see and point out others' shortcomings and failures, disregarding our own glaring lacks? Do we bend before our God—our hearts as well as our knees; our tongues to the truth; our bank accounts, emptying them for those in need? Are we ready for an accounting before God and all the world?

Are we sinners who are the friends of Jesus or are we self-righteous? Surely we are friends of God, but we regard 'them' (those different from us) as not friends of God because we will not even think of speaking or eating with 'them.' If that is the way we feel about anyone or any group, they are the ones whom Jesus will go looking after and he will leave us with all the rest of the 99 who couldn't care less about that one. Are we really dead and lost but are not aware of it?

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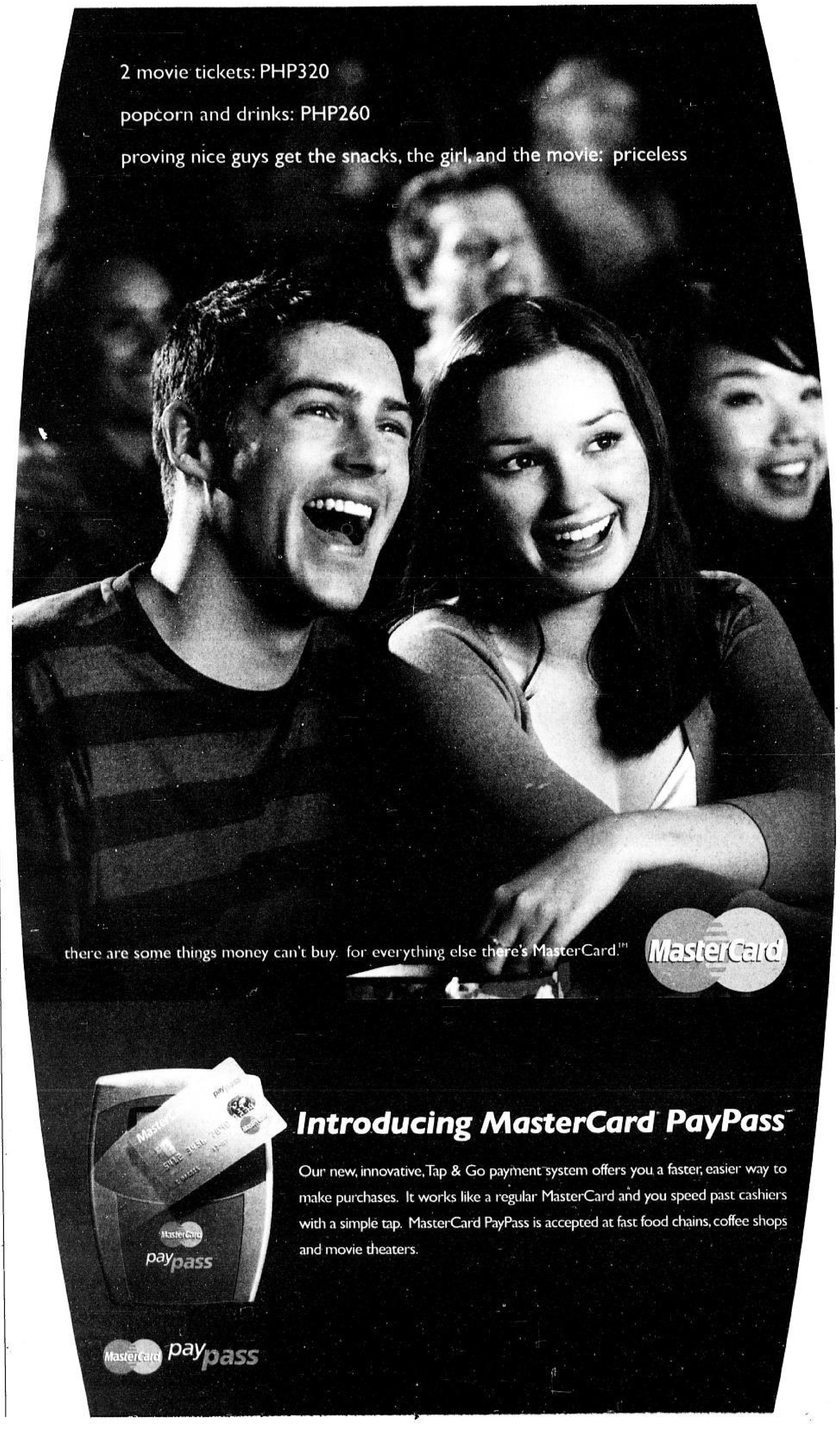
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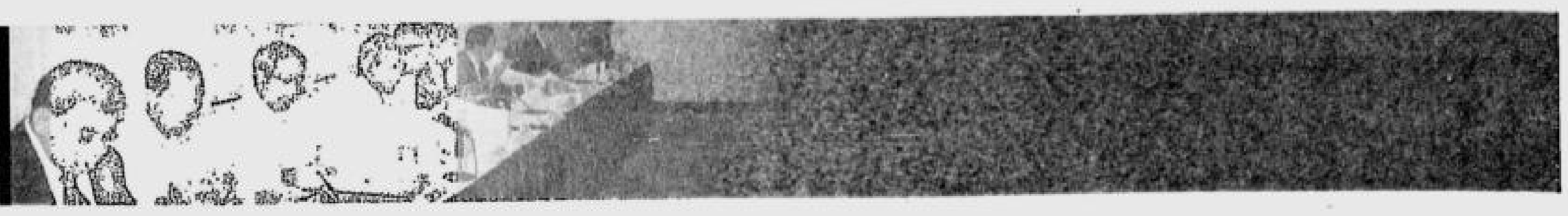
TRIPARTITE DECLARATION



'JPEPA Ratification Best for the Nation'

On October 9, 2007, leaders of the business, labor and professional sectors, in an auspicious show of solidarity, bound themselves into a covenant seeking ratification by the Senate of the JAPAN-PHILIPPINES ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (JPEPA).

In their joint manifesto, the signatories said they were convinced that ratification of the treaty "is in the best interest of the nation." ◆

TRIPARTITE DECLARATION

INTEGRATION IN EAST ASIA. The Philippines must carve its own niche in the global production network, in which Japan plays a key role. Failure to do so will make the country a laggard in the regional economic race.

INFLUX OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT. The Philippines is home to thriving industrial complexes that turn out products as varied as cars and motorcycles, semi-conductors and consumer electronics, furniture and kitchen fixtures, clothes and shoes, jewelry and fashion accessories. The plants and factories that manufacture these products need to be upgraded so that they can keep pace with technological changes. That requires massive infusion of foreign capital.

TARIFF REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION. Tropical fruits and marine products from the Philippines will enter Japan duty-free. At present, the high tariff imposed by Japan on imports discourages consumption of these goods. A liberalized trade regime will result in the expansion of the Philippine agriculture and fishing industries.

JOBS AND LIVELIHOOD. The provisions on foreign investments and reduction or elimination of import duties are designed to create hundreds of thousands of jobs for Filipino farmers, fishermen, and industrial workers.

40

JOINT MANIFESTO
FOR THE RATIFICATION OF
JAPAN-PHILIPPINES ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (JPEPA) .

We, from the labor, business and professional sectors of society, after weighing the gains and losses from the Japan-Philippines Economic Cooperation Agreement (JPEPA), are convinced that ratification of the treaty is in the best interest of our nation.

In light of greater East Asian economic integration and evolution of the global production network, where Japan plays a key role in enhancing industrial development in the region, the Philippines can not afford to be left out as a major production base for important industries such as automotive, furniture, electronics and semi-conductors. Taking into account just the static effects of JPEPA, these industries will benefit from an additional capital surplus or investment of up to US$444 million, resulting to 100,000 to 150,000 new jobs on these four industries alone with a positive impact to various upstream industries amounting to US$750 million. Indeed, JPEPA will secure the country's place as a strategic hub for more foreign direct investments.

Millions of Filipino farmers and fishermen will be the biggest gainers from JPEPA's ratification. JPEPA opens a whole new market for a wide range of tropical fruits, vegetables and marine products, tax-free, over a period of time, produced by Filipino farmers and fisherfolks while protecting the market shares of Cavendish bananas, pineapples and Philippine mangoes which presently accounts for more than 70% of the Japanese market. The rejection, on the other hand, will result in higher tariffs on those exports vis-à-vis other ASEAN countries.

Without JPEPA, the Philippines will not be in equal footing with its ASEAN neighbors, who have secured their respective Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan. This would mean that the Philippines will not be accorded the same preferential treatment in goods, services, and investments that Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Brunei are already assured of. This will undoubtedly make the Philippines less competitive as a production base for Japanese investors.

Clearly, the gains that the Philippines stands to get from the economic partnership far outweigh feared losses foisted by its critics. JPEPA will improve the country's business and investment environment and help enhance our competitiveness as a favorable destination of investments in East Asia.

We therefore most respectfully urge our honorable Senators to ratify JPEPA.

Signed:

AMB. DONALD G. DEE
Chairman, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Chairman, Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines

SAMIE LIM
President
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

MR. SERGIO R. ORTIZ-LUIS JR.
President , Philippine Exporters Confederation

ATTY. MIGUEL B. VARELA
Chairman, Employers Confederation of the Philippines

MENELEO J. CARLOS, JR.
Chairman
Federation of Philippine Industries

ATTY. ALLAN S. MONTAÑO
President
Federation of Free Workers

ERNESTO B. SANTIAGO
President
Semi Conductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc.

DEMOCRITO MENDOZA
President
Trade Union Congress of the Philippines

AMB. ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO
President
Management Association of the Philippines

AMB. FRANCIS CHUA
President Emeritus
Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Foundation

ALBERTO A. LIM
Executive Director
Makati Business Club

T. INAMI

TOSHIFUMI INAMI
President
Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Philippines

ANGELITO E. COLONA
President
Port Users Confederation

ROBERTO AMORES
President, Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Association
President, Philippine Mango Exporters Foundation
Chairman, Philippine Okra Producers and Exporters

FRANCIS MONERA
President
Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry

ALFONSO UY
Vice President
Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry
PRESS BRIEFING
SAMIE LIM
ALBERTO A. LIM
AMB. DONALD G. DEE

(From left) Mr. Alfonso Uy, Vice President of the Federation of the Flipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Toshifumi Inami, President of the Japan Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines; Mr. Samie Lim, President of PCCI; Mr. Alberto Lim , Executive Director, MBC; Mr. Donald Dee, Chairman of PCCI; Mr. Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., President of Philexport.

Filipino mutineers surrender in Mauritius, to be sent home

NINE FILIPINO MUTINEERS surrendered in Mauritius after commandeering their fishing boat because of alleged mistreatment, and were headed home after the Taiwanese owner decided not to press charges, officials and the crew said yesterday.

The ship had departed Oct. 31 from the Indian Ocean nation of Mauritius for what was to be a three-month fishing expedition.

But the Filipino sailors locked their Taiwanese captain in a room and seized control of the steel-hulled ship on Sunday—four days into the trip—because of exhausting labor, paltry meals and meager pay, Filipino crew leader Roderick Sumang told the Associated Press by telephone.

The ship returned last Tuesday to the Mauritius capital, Port Louis, where the Filipinos were taken to the police station, Sumang said.

The Kenya-based Philippine consul, Bernadette Mendoza, flew to Mauritius to help the crew negotiate a settlement with Huang Jui-yin, the Taiwanese ship owner and captain, Sumang said.

"We reached a settlement last night," he said.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Esteban Conejos said no criminal charges will be filed.

Vice President Noli de Castro, also the presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers, welcomed the reported settlement.

"This is good news as no one got hurt from this unfortunate incident," he said in a statement. "We want to make it clear that our government does not condone mutinous acts, but we have the duty to protect all of our citizens wherever they may be."

Conejos said Philippine authorities were considering the incident a labor dispute because the crewmen said "they had not been paid their wages and they were maltreated by their captain."

According to Sumang, Mendoza urged Huang to give the Filipinos one month's wages—$250—plus overtime and a plane ticket back to the Philippines, but the captain insisted they choose between their pay or the ticket.

"We chose the ticket, because it is more expensive and we really wanted to go home," Sumang said. *AP with Cynthia D. Balana and Jerome Aning*

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Fish vanishing from S. Asian oceans—report

SYDNEY—SOUTHEAST ASIA'S OCEANS are fast running out of fish, putting the livelihoods of up to 100 million people at risk and increasing the need for governments to support the maintenance of fish stocks, an Australian expert said.

Fisheries in the region had expanded dramatically in recent decades and Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines were now in the top 12 fish producing countries in the world, Meryl Williams said in a paper for Australia's Lowy Institute.

"As the fourth largest country in world fish production, Indonesia is a fisheries giant. Yet ... Indonesian marine fisheries resources are close to fully exploited and a significant number in all areas are over-exploited," she said.

Williams, a former director general of the international WorldFish Center, said the number of fishers was still increasing in most Southeast Asian countries despite a trend since the 1980s to close frontiers due to territorial claims and overfishing.

"In the Philippines, most marine fisheries were overexploited by the 1980s, with catch rates as low as 10 percent of rates when these areas were lightly fished," she said.

In the Gulf of Thailand, the density of fish had declined by 86 percent from 1961 to 1991, while between 1966 and 1994 the catch per hour fell more than sevenfold.

In Vietnam, a new fishing power and a rising source of imports by Australia, the total catch between 1981 and 1999 only doubled despite a tripling of capacity of the fishing fleet.

Williams said Southeast Asian fisheries were serviced by a plethora of regional bodies and agreements, but few acted effectively on illegal fishing and shared stock management. *Reuters*

Graduating PMA cadet dies

THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY yesterday announced the death of a graduating cadet who succumbed to an illness last Tuesday.

Cadet Reenan Ferrer of BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City, died at 8:40 a.m. at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center due to suspected upper respiratory tract infection, a statement from the PMA Public Information Office (PIO) said.

Ferrer is a member of PMA Class 2008 "Baghawi," which means "Bagong Halaw ng Lahi."

PMA cadets had been on vacation last week for All Souls' Day when Ferrer sought treatment at the Perpetual Help Hospital in Las Piñas for an on and off fever.

The 22-year-old was subsequently referred to the AFPMC where he suffered from several episodes of seizures despite continued medication and monitoring, the PMA said.

The PMA added that Ferrer's family has consented to an autopsy "to establish the final diagnosis of his death."

A three-day wake for Ferrer will be held at the PMA, Capt. Dennis Solomon, the academy's PIO chief, said. *Nikko Dizon*

Santos; 53

RODOLFO "ROD" QUIAMBAO SANTOS OF Filinvest 5, Cainta, Rizal, died of heart ailment on Sunday. He was 53.

He is survived by wife Gloria Prepose, son Noah, his mother Lourdes, siblings and in-laws Romy and Lyn Santos, Oliver and Jag Villavicencio (USA), Ulie and Joy Basa (Canada) and Svetlana (Canada). His body lies in state at the Marian Memorial Chapel on Marcos Highway. Burial is on Saturday at the Loyola Memorial Park after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Filinvest East Homes Chapel.

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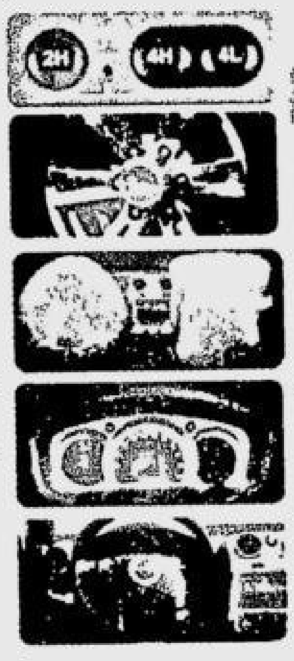

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Senate probes Malacañang cash gifts

From page A1

de Venecia gave out the money, and now the President's party Kampi had acknowledged it was the source of the cash gifts.

"It is an incredible tale concocted by storytellers lacking in imagination and creativity," Pangilinan said.

Fumbling its way to a cover-up

Pangilinan said Malacañang was apparently fumbling its way into another cover-up considering that the President was likely to be implicated.

"Kampi is the party of President Macapagal-Arroyo. It admits to disbursing the funds which, say, amounted to P120 million in cold cash, and it happened right inside Malacañang, the President's official residence. It would be incredible to believe that given all these, the President had no knowledge of the incident," said Pangilinan.

"Even my daughter in Grade 1 will find that difficult to believe. They are either lying or we have a President who is totally oblivious to what is going on in the Palace. Either way, it certainly doesn't look good," Pangilinan said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who filed the resolution seeking to investigate the cash gifts, said that Ms Arroyo should explain the bribery incidents since it happened in her official residence.

Did money come from PNP?

Sen. Richard Gordon concurred with Lacson that it was hard to believe that the President did not know that the money was being distributed.

Gordon justified the probe saying it would impose rigid guidelines on political parties such as Kampi to be more accountable for their actions.

Lacson said Malacañang should make up its mind and stop changing its script in the middle of the act. "If the money came from Kampi, how did it raise such huge amount? If that money came from Secretary Puno, he might have gotten it from the PNP (Philippine National Police) which I think makes the situation worse," Lacson said.

With so many accusing fingers being pointed, Lacson believed it would be easier to come out with the truth.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano said that his committee on accountability of public officers and investigations would hold the first hearing next Wednesday morning, a day before the same committee resumes its probe of the National Broadband Network project.

Pampanga governor

Cayetano said the blue ribbon committee would most likely summon Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio and other local government officials who admitted receiving the doleouts and Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno, the chair of Kampi.

Sen. Jamby Madrigal wants to summon Malacañang executive Remedios Poblador and Rep. Amelita Villarosa who she said should explain their role as "bag ladies" in the cash payoffs.

But Cayetano said the Senate would not invite their coequals to a hearing although they could volunteer to attend the probe to give their side.

Lacson said the appearance of at least two governors should get the ball rolling for the bribery probe.

Cayetano explained that there was a thin line between bribery and giving funds for projects "but the circumstances and the source of funds would determine that."

Palace admits cash doles from Kampi

From page A1

"Obviously, I was not very happy that I'm the last to know," said Puno, the acting presidential political affairs adviser, insisting that he had been informed that Kampi was behind the Oct. 11 payoffs only on Tuesday.

At a press conference, Puno shielded Ms Arroyo. "This has nothing to do with the Palace. I personally did not know about that," he said.

Puno also said he did not know if Ms Arroyo had been informed ahead of time that Deputy House Speaker Ma. Amelita Villarosa would publicly acknowledge that Kampi was behind the payoffs.

"I really seriously doubt whether the President had any clue," he said.

President Arroyo has not been "too involved in the workings of Kampi" since she is also the chair of the ruling party Lakas-CMD and "essentially she has the entire (administration) coalition to deal with," Puno said.

Puno does not see the wisdom of Ms Arroyo castigating her party mates amid accusation of bribery after several lawmakers and even local officials admitted to receiving money from the Palace ranging from P200,000 to P500,000.

Asked about the source of Kampi funds, he said: "Ask Congressmen Girlie Villarosa and Abet Garcia." Villarosa and Garcia are secretary and treasurer, respectively, of Kampi.

Villarosa issued the confirmation on Tuesday after Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr. identified her as the source of the money given to him during the legislators' breakfast meeting with the President in the Palace last month.

President unaware of handouts

Villarosa said the cash gifts were a "party initiative without the knowledge of the President." She said Kampi president Rep. Luis Villafuerte and Kampi chair Puno knew about the money.

Villarosa claimed Puno knew about the disbursement but did not know that it would be done in Malacañang.

"Siyempre, chairman yun e. He [Puno] knows the disbursement *pero hindi niya alam ang detalye* [Of course, he's chairman. He knew about the disbursement but not the details]," Villarosa said in a phone interview.

Puno disagreed yesterday, saying:

"She told me only (Tuesday by phone). I just asked her if the President and the treasurer (of Kampi) knew about it, and she said yes."

He said that he had not much opportunity to meet with the party since he took over the Department of Interior and Local Government in February 2006 and relinquished the presidency of the party to Villafuerte.

Apology to De Venecia

Ms Arroyo founded Kampi, a member of the ruling coalition at the House, along with Speaker Jose de Venecia's Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats party.

Puno apologized to De Venecia after he had pointed to him as the source of the payoff.

"I guess if you're seeing confusion on our part, it's because we are. We don't know anything about this. And all of these declarations we will accept at face value. But certainly, we here do not have anything to do with any of these things"

"I owe Speaker De Venecia an apology because I said before this came from the Office of the Speaker," Puno said.

He said Villarosa had said she only released money to two lawmakers. "Again, I just was informed about this yesterday (Tuesday) and I was asking why I was not told earlier but she said she was in the province. I guess that's a good explanation," he said.

"I really just feel very bad about being left out of such important matter and ... since I have been making public statements I feel that I should have been informed earlier so that I'm not shooting off my mouth," he said.

On disciplining party members, he said: "That is for the party leadership to look into it and to decide. Not up to me."

Congressional probe

Puno welcomed a congressional inquiry into the reported payoffs ostensibly to kill the latest impeachment move against Ms Arroyo in the House of Representatives.

"I can't speak for the party, but for myself, I'm willing to participate in any inquiry ... I have no problem with that," he said, but stressed that he was not in Malacañang when the money was distributed in paper bags.

Had he been informed that it would be done in the Palace he said he would not have allowed it.

"Of course not," Puno said and added: "If it's a party matter, my first question is: If we're Kampi, why are we giving to Lakas. Are we pirating, courting (congressmen)?"

Villarosa has told the INQUIRER that she gave P500,000 to Abante, a Lakas member, because he had a flock ministry and was leaving for Saudi Arabia that time, and P500,000 to La Union Rep. Thomas Dumpit, a Kampi member, who supposedly needed the money for his congressional district.

Kampi has no money

Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis, a member of Kampi's executive committee, said the party had a relatively meager budget, which was not enough to extend hefty financial support to its allies in the House of Representatives.

Solis said the party's fund was raised only from the P5,000 monthly contribution of its members. At the most, the party probably had only around P700,000, he claimed.

He said the Kampi leadership should discipline Villarosa. "If only I had a way of removing her from Kampi, I would remove her," he said in Filipino in a media forum in Quezon.

With a report from Christian V. Esguerra

'We are all to blame for her death'

From page A1

not particularly sit well with the Roman Catholic Church teachings, Cruz said he would be the last person to blame the child for taking her own life.

He said the community, which is directly influential to the young girl, should be looked into. Her death, said Cruz, was brought about by her social surroundings.

He said everyone, including each and everyone of us, was also to blame for her death. If one girl goes hungry due to poverty then we are all a part of it, Cruz said.

Failure of society

"This means we have not done well. We have not done our civic duty to correct the abuses, and to censure graft and corruption. We have kept our eyes closed. We did not act," he said.

The National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), which represents the mainline Protestants in the country, said the death of the girl represented the failure of society as a whole.

"We have called them poor and eyesores but what do you call a society which made them like this?" said Bishop Eliezer Pascua of the NCCP Executive Committee, citing an oft-quoted phrase.

On a moral aspect, Jesus has always asked the people to identify with the poor, according to Pascua.

The essence of Jesus' teachings is to fight poverty because Jesus has always talked about the poor as an act of criticizing the present order which has contributed to the poverty, he said.

"Every individual has a responsibility, yes, but we also have a calling for a collective responsibility," said Pascua.

That calling asks all the faithful not only to take part actively to have a just and fair society, but also to fight an unjust and an oppressive society, according to the NCCP official.

The Philippines for Jesus Movement (PJM), for its part, said the government, too, should take responsibility for the sad event.

He said poverty and hunger, which were the reason for the young girl's suicide, could be traced directly to corruption.

The Bible says that governments should be "terrors against evil" and "promoters of goodwill," said Bishop Dan Balais, PJM national director.

Governments therefore exist to take care of the poor and the weak. But politicians have corrupted the meaning of government, Balais said.

"The death of the girl is the result of our problems of corruption, injustice and oppression. There have been many wake-up calls that have remained unheeded," he said.

Die and you'll be arrested! Britain's most stupid laws

From page A1

an offense and is also by far the most absurd law in Britain, according to a survey of nearly 4,000 people by a television channel showing a legal drama series.

And although the lords were clad in their red and white ermine cloaks and ambassadors from around the world were garbed in colorful national costumes, at least nobody turned up in a suit of armor. That would have been illegal.

Other rules deemed utterly stupid included one that permits a pregnant woman to urinate in a policeman's hat and murdering bow-and-arrow-carrying Scotsmen within the city walls of York in northern England.

A law stating that in Liverpool, only a clerk in a tropical fish store is allowed to be publicly topless, was also ridiculous, according to a poll of 3,931 people for UKTV Gold television.

Nearly half of those surveyed admitted to breaking the ban on eating mince pies on Christmas Day, which dates back to the 17th century and was originally designed to outlaw gluttony during the rule of the Puritan ruler Oliver Cromwell.

The "stupid" laws and other regulations were culled from published research into ancient legislation that has never been repealed although subsequent statutes have rendered them obsolete.

Respondents were given a short list and asked to vote. Voted the 10 most ridiculous British laws are:

1. It is illegal to die in the Houses of Parliament (27 percent).
2. It is an act of treason to place a postage stamp bearing the British monarch upside-down (7 percent).
3. In Liverpool, it is illegal for a woman to be topless except as a clerk in a tropical fish store (6 percent).
4. Mince pies cannot be eaten on Christmas Day (5 percent).
5. In Scotland, if someone knocks on your door and requires the use of your toilet, you must let them enter (4 percent).
6. A pregnant woman can legally relieve herself anywhere she wants, including in a policeman's helmet (4 percent).
7. The head of any dead whale found on the British coast automatically becomes the property of the king, and the tail of the queen (3.5 percent).
8. It is illegal to avoid telling the taxman anything you do not want him to know, but legal not to tell him information you do not mind him knowing (3 percent).
9. It is illegal to enter the Houses of Parliament in a suit of armor (3 percent).
10. In the city of York, it is legal to murder a Scotsman within the ancient city walls, but only if he is carrying a bow and arrow (2 percent).

AFP

TIMELINE

Lies and denials

OCT. 11—PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo meets in Malacañang with 100 congressmen over breakfast and 200 officers and members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) over lunch.

Lawmakers later received envelopes containing between P200,000 and P500,000 and promises of pork barrel amounting to P70,000, says a staff member of one participant. Cash ranging from P20,000 for mayors and up to P500,000 for governors were also handed out to drum up Ulap support for the dismissal of impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo, says a local officer.

Oct. 12—Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco admits in a radio interview that he got an envelope containing P200,000, calls it a "Christmas gift." Secretary Cerge Remonde, head of Presidential Management Staff, says Cuenco told him his disclosure was just a "joke."

Oct. 13—Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio says that a Palace staff member in a barong tagalog gave him a brown paper bag containing P500,000 as he was walking toward his car after the Ulap meeting, purportedly for barangay projects and upcoming barangay elections.

Oct. 14—Two southern Luzon governors, who asked not to be identified, say they also received P500,000 each at the Ulap meeting. The two say the money had nothing to do with impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

Misamis Occidental Gov. Leo Ocampos, president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), denies cash handouts at the Oct. 11 Ulap meeting.

Oct. 15—Panlilio retells his bribe story, says Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza—not Palace staff—handed the bundle of P500,000 in P1,000 bills in a paper bag to his chief of staff, who then turned it over to him. Panlilio shows copy of a letter to Malacañang to acknowledge the receipt of the money and to request the name of the payer.

Mendoza says he also got P500,000.

Pangasinan Rep. Rachel Arenas says she got money from Malacañang, picked it up in the House of Representatives, but did not elaborate. (She later says the money did not come from Malacañang after all.)

Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan admits he received "an allowance" of P200,000 in the evening of Oct. 11 in the House of Representatives through the Office of the Speaker. He says the money did not come from Malacañang and that many other congressmen received allowances in the House that evening.

Negros Oriental Gov. Emilio Macias admits he received P200,000 from LPP, but says the money is not a bribe but is intended for the Oct. 29 launch of the Integrated Tax collection system (I-Tax), a project introduced by a German foundation.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno says "I don't know where the funds came from ... 'That's an Ulap thing. Ulap has its own funds."

Oct. 16—Binalonan Mayor Ramon Guico, the Ulap president, denies any hand in the distribution of money. He says Ulap has no money.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. dismisses suggestions that the money came from the Office of the President (OP).

Speaker Jose de Venecia denies knowledge of cash handouts, says he arrived three hours after the breakfast meeting.

Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante admits receiving P500,000 in five bundles of P100,000 each from a person in a barong shirt—one of many involved in the distribution—during the Oct. 11 breakfast hosted by Ms Arroyo.

Acting Commission on Elections Chair Resurreccion Z. Borra says law bars the use of public funds for barangay elections.

Oct. 17—Puno and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye say the President was "angry" and "hurt" by insinuations that she had tolerated bribery in Malacañang, the two officials say Ms Arroyo had ordered the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) as early as Oct. 12 to investigate handouts.

Oct. 18—Speaker de Venecia gives his blessing to a proposed House investigation of the cash gifts handed out in Malacañang.

Oct. 19—Gloria Bundoc, director of the Office of the President's finance office, says in response to Panlilio letter that Malacañang has not disbursed any amount for Pampanga.

Oct. 22—Mendoza says Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, LPP secretary general, had told him the money was for community projects when a woman in white handed him the two bags for himself and Panlilio in room in Malacañang in the presence of Interior Undersecretary Austere Panadero, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) Vice President Eddie "Bong" Plaza, and an unidentified third man. Panadero confirms presence in Malacañang but denies involvement in handouts.

Oct. 23—LPP publishes a full-page advertisement signed by Evardone and 28 other governors saying that it "did not, as a whole, receive cash gifts from any Palace functionary during or after that Oct. 11 meeting, let alone get any instruction from anybody to oppose" impeachment case against Ms Arroyo. Evardone and LPP spokesperson Gov. Joel Reyes of Palawan later claim the money given to Panlilio and Mendoza came from the LPP's "capability building project" (CBP).

Pagcor spokesperson Dodie King says the gaming firm is not involved in the doleouts, says its funds are examined by the Commission on Audit.

Ms Arroyo orders the PAGC to give way to the investigation being separately conducted by Ombudsman.

Oct. 24—Reyes says the money given to Mendoza and Panlilio came from a new P6-million funding window established on Sept. 6 that is still unknown to most LPP members, says LPP has P20 million from annual dues paid by members.

Governors Joseph Marañon of Negros Occidental, Carlos Jericho Petilla of Leyte, Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez of Antique, Carlito Marquez of Aklan, Victor Tanco of Capiz, Raul Daza of Northern Samar and Vilma Santos-Recto of Batangas say they have neither heard of CBP nor have they received money from it.

Oct. 25—Rep. Teofisto Guingona III says the money that Panlilio received in Malacañang came from a Bank of Commerce branch in Pampanga, based on the markings on the cash wrappers.

A group of businessmen, clerics and academics, including Coalition Against Corruption chair Jose L. Cuisia Jr., Bishop-Businessmen's Conference national cochair Vicente Paterno, and members of the Makati Business Club, urges Ms Arroyo to create an independent commission to investigate the cash distribution.

Oct. 30—Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita denies knowledge of cash gifts, says he does not approve of cash handouts regardless of who or what was behind it.

Nov. 6—House Deputy Speaker Ma. Amelita "Girlie" Villarosa admits she was the source of the P500,000 Abante got on Oct. 11; that it came from the Kampi as part of what she called "regular help" to coalition members; and that it is a party initiative "without the knowledge of the President." *Eliza Victoria, Inquirer Research*

Palace: No to quit call, snap polls

Doble faces raps for wiretapping

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTigation has filed a criminal complaint before the Pasay City prosecutor's office against former military agent Vidal Doble as a result of his testimony in the Senate about his wiretapping activities.

The preliminary investigation of the complaint against Doble for violation of the Anti-Wiretapping Law is scheduled for today, and if he fails to appear, he could lose his chance to counter the allegations against him.

The city prosecutor has also created a panel to handle the case, he added.

The NBI said the case was filed based on Doble's testimony before the Senate in the past two months about his participation in wiretapping activities while he was still an agent of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Doble had said that he had wiretapped the phone conversation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and former elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, wherein the chief executive was heard asking about her lead in the vote counting for the 2004 presidential election. *Leila B. Salaverria*

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY rejected calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign and for the government to hold snap elections, reminding them the next presidential election was still in 2010.

"I think we should not give much attention to such calls," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters, in reply to the calls made by a group calling itself the United Forces.

Ermita said that both Ms Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro were now serving out their respective terms after being elected in 2004 and that was why he noted he could "not see how a group can come out with such suggestion without basis just because they're against the policies of the administration."

"I always go back to my usual line that in a democracy you cannot please everybody," Ermita added.

This as Malacañang released a copy of the pastoral statement of 14 Mindanao-based Catholic bishops who sought an impartial investigation as well as public sobriety in the controversy over the now scrapped National Broadband Network deal and the alleged bribery by the Palace of local officials.

Meanwhile, Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Antonio Trillanes IV yesterday joined in the call of the so-called United Forces for Arroyo and De Castro to resign and for snap elections to be held.

Pimentel and Trillanes were the highest public officials that signed their names on a manifesto being spread on the Internet by the group. *Reports by Christine Avendaño and Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

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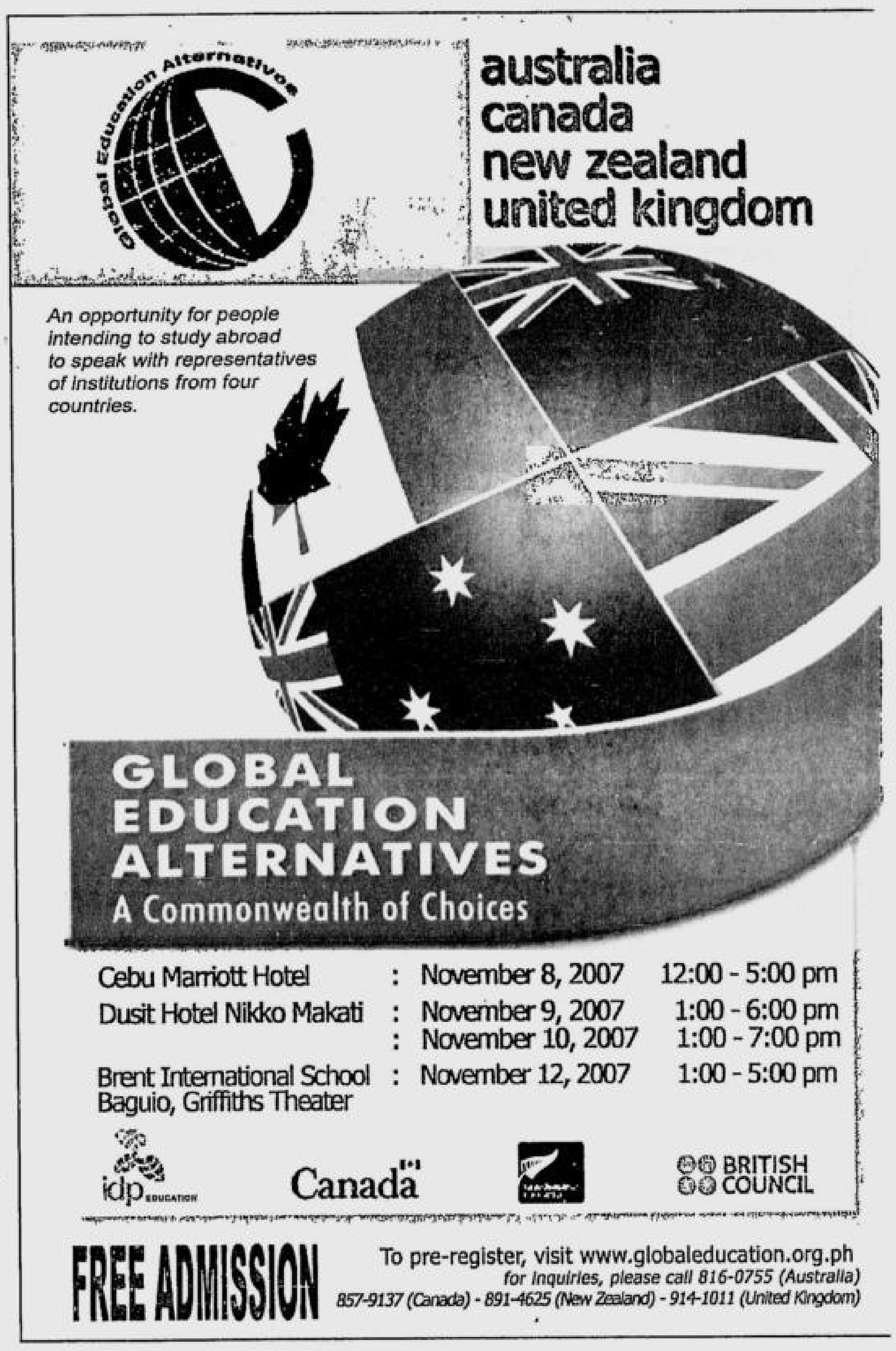
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11M Pinoys among 1B living on less than $1/day

From page A1

and countries in transition in 2003, the Philippines was ranked 72nd—the highest among the Southeast Asian nations included in the study.

The Philippines had a Global Hunger Index (GHI) of 17.55, which indicates a "serious problem" in hunger. Belarus, a former member of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, topped the list with a GHI of 1.59.

Grandchildren

Francisco Inorme, 78, can be considered one of the world's most deprived.

He makes a living by mending shoes in a stall beside the Barangay UP Campus clinic in Diliman, Quezon City.

Asked where he lives, he points at a house across the street, where he rents a small room for P1,000 a month.

He supports his wife, sick in-laws (who live on Batasan Road) and some of his children, most of whom already have their own families.

"Sometimes my children will drop by," Inorme says, a native of Masbate. "They'd tell me, 'Papa, your grandchild has nothing to eat.' So I'll give them a hundred pesos and borrow food from a *karinderya* in Krus na Ligas." (Krus na Ligas is a nearby barangay.)

Inorme, who charges P40 per pair of shoes, says on good days he earns P200 a day. But dividing this daily income equally among himself, his wife and his wife's parents gives him a share of a meager P50 a day. "And these are on good days," says Inorme.

"There have been weeks where I only earn one hundred pesos a day."

The IFPRI study shows that Inorme could be out of poverty if interventions could be made.

The study, presented at the 2020 Conference in Beijing that IFPRI organized, identified the world's poorest and the policies that could help them move out of poverty.

The study was conducted to see if the first of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—to halve the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015—can be achieved.

The MDGs were contained in the Millennium Declaration adopted by 189 member-states of the United Nations in September 2000.

The study found that the world had made considerable progress in reducing the number of people living on less than $1 a day from 28.6 percent in 1990 to 18.0 percent in 2004.

But it said economic growth did not have the same impact on those considered poor. Income growth benefited those just below the poverty line, but not the most deprived.

The study said that of those subsisting on less than a dollar a day, half a billion lived on less than 75 cents a day (medial poor) and 162 million on less than 50 cents (ultra poor).

Seventh most populous

"This is a significant number of people: If all of the ultra poor were concentrated in a single nation, it would be the world's seventh most populous country after China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Brazil and Pakistan," IFPRI said.

The Philippines is not one of the countries included in the study, but in response to e-mailed questions, Veronica O'Connor from IFPRI provided poverty statistics on the Philippines.

She said that 13.5 percent or about 11 million Filipinos lived on less than $1 a day; 9.1 percent or 7.4 million are subjacent poor (living on 75 cents to $1) and 4.4 percent or 3.6 million were medial poor (living on 50 to 75 cents). There is no figure for the ultra poor (living on less than 50 cents).

She said these figures were calculated from the POVCAL (Program For Calculating Poverty Measures From Grouped Data) website, a compilation of poverty data from country household surveys and posted on the Web by the World Bank.

The most unfortunate consequence of widespread poverty is that more than 800 million people cannot afford an adequate diet, according to the study.

Hunger index

Progress in meeting the hunger MDG was examined by using the Global Hunger Index (GHI), which includes three indicators—the proportion of people who are food-energy deficient as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the prevalence of underweight in children under the age of 5 as estimated by the World Health Organization, and the under-5 mortality rate as estimated by United Nations Children's Fund.

The ranking showed that the hot spots of hunger were also in Sub-Saharan Africa, which indicates a direct relationship between hunger and poverty.

O'Connor said that the GHI index of 17.55 for the Philippines was derived from 22 percent of people who are calorie deficient for 2000-02, 27.4 percent of children under-5 who were underweight in 2003, and a mortality rate of 36 per 1,000, or 3.6 percent, for under-5.

The percentages roughly correspond to 17.6 million Filipinos who are calorie deficient; 2.2 million Filipino children under 5 who are underweight; and 0.3 million Filipino children dying before their fifth birthday each year.

"Poor households and individuals are unable to achieve food security, have inadequate resources for care, or cannot utilize resources for health on a sustainable basis," the study said.

Far from roads, schools

The study also found that "the poorest and most undernourished households are located farthest from roads, markets, schools, and health services" and "adults in ultra poverty are significantly less likely to be educated, be they male or female."

Despite the global trend of poverty shifting toward urban areas, the incidence of poverty is still higher in rural areas, the study said.

As poverty deepens, the income disparities between rural and urban areas tend to increase. On average, poverty rates are 2.4 times higher for the subjacent poor and 2.7 times higher for the medial poor in rural areas than for their counterparts in urban areas.

Poverty traps

But the poverty rates for the ultra poor are nearly four times higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

The study also said that the coincidence of severe and persistent poverty and hunger indicated the presence of poverty traps—conditions from which individuals or groups cannot emerge without the help of others.

The three most common traps are the inability of poor households to invest in the education of their children, the limited access to credit for those with few assets, and the lack of productive labor of the hungry.

Within a trap, "poverty begets poverty and hunger begets hunger," the study said.

The study noted that the slow progress in. reducing ultra poverty and the relative lack of success in reaching the very poorest clearly demonstrated that "business as usual" would not be good enough to reach the poorest within an acceptable timeframe.

To help the poorest move out of poverty, IFPRI suggested the improvement of access to markets and basic services for those in the most remote rural areas, greater investment in education for those with few assets, and the prevention of child malnutrition.

IFPRI was established in 1975 and is one of the 15 agricultural research centers that receive funding from governments, private foundations, and international and regional organizations, most of which are members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

GMA orders additional P1B for antipoverty program

By Christine O. Avendaño

ELATED BY REPORTS THAT fewer families rated themselves as poor this year, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday stepped up her antipoverty program by releasing P1 billion more to fund programs that aim to mitigate hunger in the country for the remaining two months of the year.

The other day, Ms Arroyo said the people were now feeling the benefits of the improved economy after noting a Social Weather Stations survey showing that self-rated poverty had been at the relatively low range of 47 to 53 percent since September 2006, down 6 percentage points from 55 to 59 percent from December 2005 to June 2006.

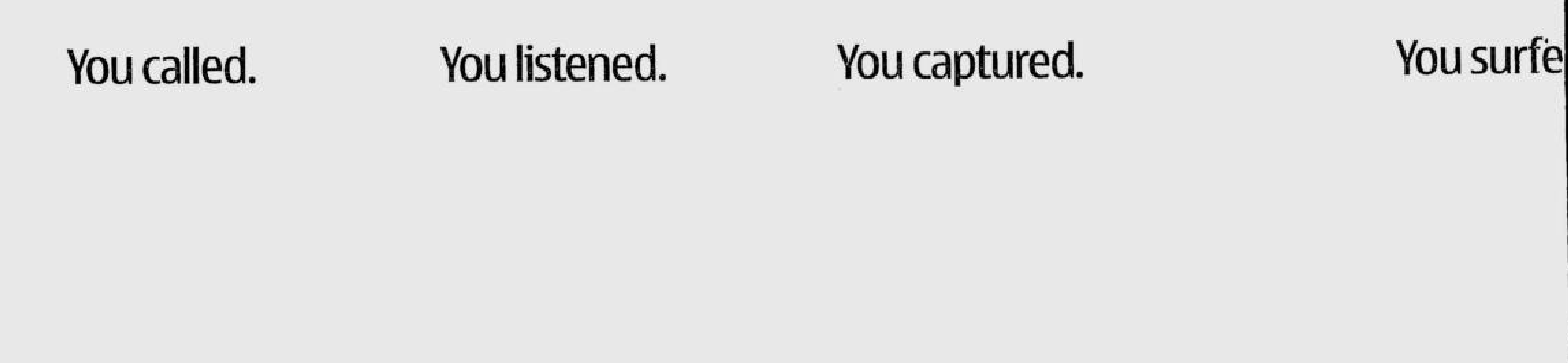
Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the decline "roughly translates to five million Filipinos."

At a Hunger Task Force meeting at the Manila Hotel, Ms Arroyo ordered the budget department to release the money immediately to the concerned government agencies.

While last year's antihunger program focused on providing affordable food and creating more jobs, the government this time wanted to concentrate on increasing food production and making food delivery more efficient.

"And in order to increase food production, we will push for programs for poultry, piggery and livestock, agriculture, irrigation, vegetables for the masses and fisheries," she said.

To enhance efficiency of logistics and food delivery, Ms Arroyo said the government programs consist of the food for school program, the barangay terminal and tindahan natin, and the creation of a nongovernmental organization network to support feeding programs, among others.



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Kin of slain Marines urge gov't: Avenge their deaths

By Nikko Dizon

THEY ARE THANKFUL FOR THE CONTINUED assistance the Philippine Marine Corps has been giving them, like the cash prize from a popular noontime show that they shared, but the families and friends of the Marine soldiers brutally killed in two separate debacles almost four months ago in Basilan called on the government to avenge their deaths.

Yesterday, widows with children and other family members in tow, had the rare chance to get together at the Marines headquarters in Fort Bonifacio where their husbands were remembered by the corps as it celebrated its 57th anniversary.

Bravely holding back her tears, Juliet Simbajon, 34, said she wanted the Abu Sayyaf bandits who beheaded her husband, Sgt. Cayetano Simbajon, captured.

Juliet was seven months pregnant when the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ambushed her husband's convoy in Barangay Ginanta, Al-Barka town in Basilan while on its way back to their headquarters after a futile search for kidnapped Italian priest, Giancarlo Bossi.

Fourteen Marines were killed. Simbajon and nine others were beheaded and mutilated by the bandits.

It is hard to talk about the loss of a loved one, said Melanie Castañeda, 29, whose boyfriend, 1st Lt. Roldan Somera, was among the 15 Marine officers and soldiers killed after they assaulted the camp of ASG leader, Furuji Indama, in Unkaya Pukan town on Aug. 18.

"I'm trying my best to move on for our son," Castañeda said in Filipino.

The government then had just declared an all-out offensive against the bandits to avenge the Marines' deaths.

Pinay maid in HK jailed for blackmail

By Philip C. Tubeza

A HONG KONG JUDGE YESterday sentenced a 35-year-old Filipino domestic helper to 20 months in jail for trying to blackmail her employer whom she caught having an extra-marital affair which she recorded on her cell phone video camera.

Elma L. Elumbaring, of Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte, pleaded guilty to blackmail, having demanded HK$50,000 from her female employer in exchange for not sending copies of the video to the latter's husband and two young children.

The video footage, which the maid transferred to a compact disc, showed scenes of her employer in her underwear and her lover walking in and out of her bedroom.

The maid claimed she was only trying to get back at her employer for accusing her of theft and for refusing to renew her contract last July.

"Blackmail is one of the ugliest crimes. It is like an attempted murder of the soul… For the offense, [Elumbaring] is ordered to serve a 20-month prison term," said District Court Judge Andrew Chan in his ruling.

The complainant employed Elumbaring from August 2005 until July 31 this year when she did not renew the Filipina's contract after accusing her of theft.

On the day she left, Elumbaring left a CD in the children's room. She then sent a text message to the complainant and told her to check it out.

"After she [the employer] viewed the CD, she found that it contained images of her boyfriend walking in and out of her bedroom," said government counsel Franco Kuan.

Elumbaring also informed her former employer that she "made the CD because [the complainant] had once accused [her] of stealing, and as a result, her contract had not been renewed," Kuan said.

Then last Aug. 10, Elumbaring demanded that her former employer deposit HK$50,000 in a bank account of a friend and warned that she would inform the complainant's husband and children about the CD if she did not get the money.

The complainant went to the police who arrested Elumbaring on Aug. 17. When interviewed by the police, Elumbaring said: "She accused me first."

The police confiscated from Elumbaring a Sony Ericsson cell phone that still contained a copy of the incriminating video. They also searched the house of her new employer and found a Nokia cell phone there, Kuan said.

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OPINION

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Once a dictator

ON APRIL 19, 2005, SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA, with Senate President Franklin Drilon in attendance, conferred the Congressional Medal of Achievement on Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf. The award, a characteristically ebullient De Venecia said, was in "recognition of his pivotal role in strengthening democracy, representative democracy and the rule of law in Pakistan."

EDITORIAL

Memo to De Venecia: Can we take the damn thing back?

Last Saturday, Musharraf, the Army general who seized power in Pakistan in 1999 and then gradually restored democracy over the years, declared a state of emergency, citing imminent terrorist threats to the security of the state. He has since detained the chief justice of his country's Supreme Court and arrested over 700 protesting lawyers. More lawyers have taken to the streets; the other day, riot police clashed with hundreds of lawyers in the city of Multan.

It is no coincidence that the rule of law was the first casualty in Musharraf's declaration of martial law—the once and future dictator was facing a suit before the country's highest court, which could disqualify him from the presidency he had just won in less than credible elections. It is no coincidence that martial rule's first detainee was Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry—Musharraf had already tried to oust his former ally turned political independent earlier (the chief justice was reinstated after four months). It is also no coincidence that the state of emergency was imposed in the aftermath of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's return from exile—the army chief had unsuccessfully tried to dissuade his most potent rival from returning, because of alleged threats on her life. Indeed, upon her arrival, a powerful bomb exploded near the vehicle she was riding, instantly killing over a hundred well-wishers.

(For purposes of understanding the situation in Pakistan, it may be instructive to imagine what would have happened in the Philippines if opposition leader Ninoy Aquino had survived the attempt on his life on Aug. 21, 1983. Perhaps martial law would have been reimposed.)

Musharraf's declaration, therefore, does not come as a surprise. And those who like Anak ng Mindanao party-list Rep. Mujiv Hataman refused to applaud when Musharraf addressed the joint session of the House and Senate in April 2005 deserve to be recognized. "He has no moral ascendancy to lecture us on the fine points of democracy," Hataman had said then.

At a meeting Musharraf called last Monday, the International Herald Tribune reported, the diplomatic corps in Islamabad found that the Pakistani president seemed "more focused on vanquishing his political rivals than on fighting terrorism." A key paragraph reads: "At the meeting, the general primarily railed against his political opponents, with special venom reserved for the Supreme Court. When asked by a diplomat to describe specific plans to crack down on terrorists, Musharraf gave only a vague answer."

Because of the massive military aid (some $10 billion since 9/11) that the United States has been pumping into Pakistan, in its still-futile search for Osama bin Laden in the country's nether regions, the support of the US government is crucial to the survival of the Musharraf regime (or, indeed, of any pro-Western, post-Musharraf administration).

At that Monday meeting, the American ambassador took the Pakistani president to task for his "extraordinarily heavy-handed measures." Any sting these words may have had, however, was lost in translation, after US President George W. Bush sent deliberately mixed signals traveling at the speed of sound. He urged Musharraf to call for new elections and to step down from his position as army chief, but he also praised his ally as "a strong fighter against extremists and radicals." (Top Bush officials started issuing mixed signals right after martial law was declared.)

US leaders may be disposed to continue waltzing with dictators, as it had done with Ferdinand Marcos. But that dangerous dance had long-term ill effects on the Wilsonian spirit that drives much of America's diplomacy. In a world made "safe for democracy," democracy is always the better alternative.

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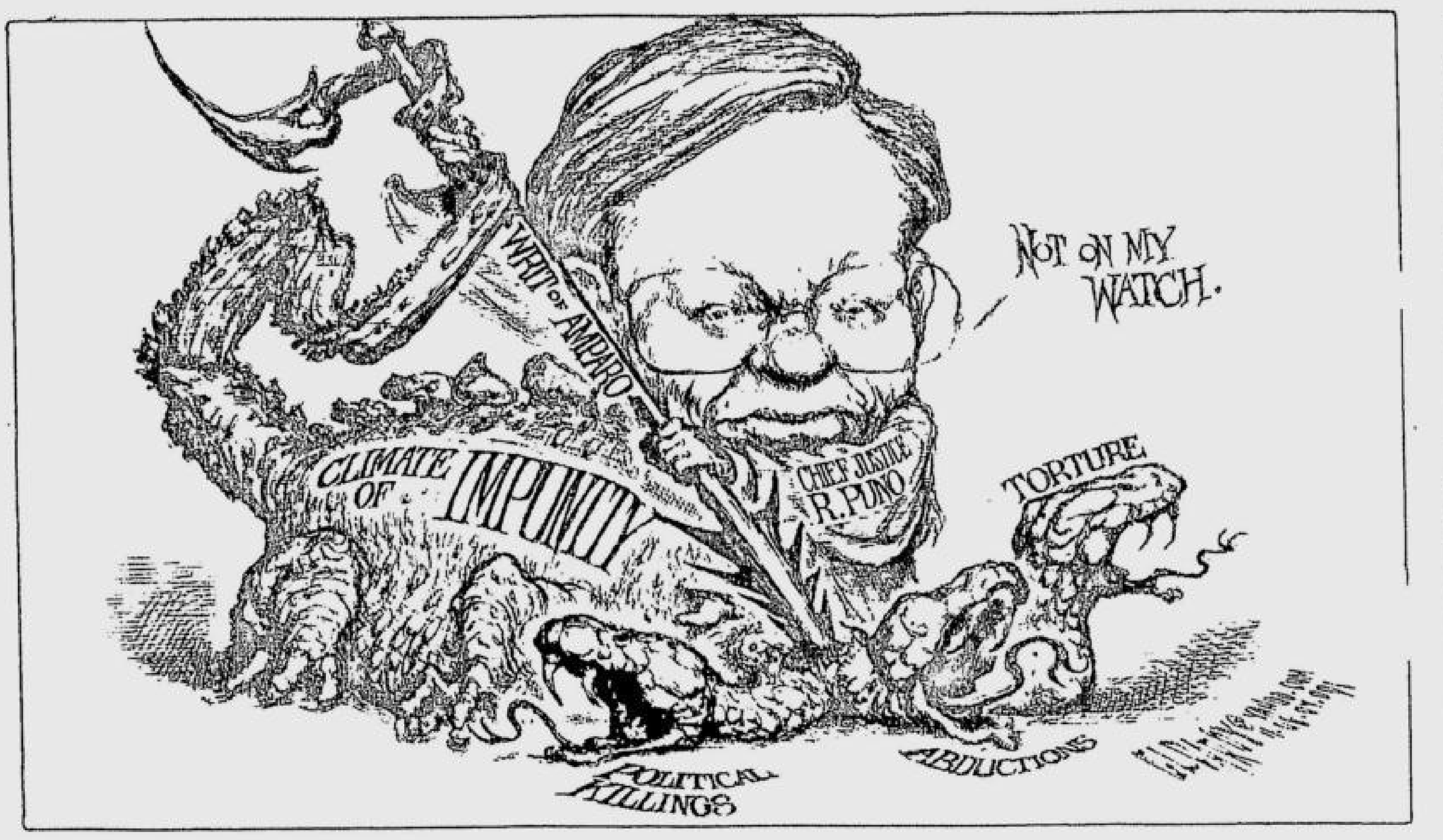
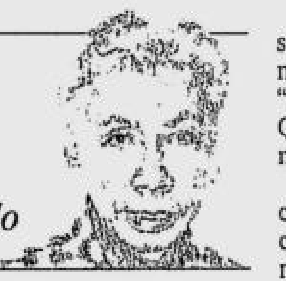


Unplugged nations

VIEWPOINT



Juan L. Mercado

"IT WAS AS SIMPLE AND UNCOMPLICATED AS shooting demonstrators in the streets. Embarrassed by smuggled video and photographs that showed their people rising up against them, the generals simply switched off the Internet."

Pakistan today, right? Wrong. It's Burma. That's how the junta blacked out coverage of the "Saffron Revolution's" suppression, Seth Mydans of The New York Times reported. Government owns one of the country's two Internet providers. The other belongs to the intelligence chief's son.

No such problem bugged Ferdinand Marcos. In September 1972, Internet was a gleam in the eyes of its inventors, Oxford physicist Tim Berners Lee and Venton Cerf and computer engineer Roy Tomlinson. Marcos padlocked the media, jailed journalists, then squeezed the "mosquito press." The Philippine Journalism Review, for example, carried an insightful survey of mimeo papers, published mainly by Catholic groups, challenging the dictatorship.

Even with martial law, Pervez Musharraf is finding Internet harder to leash than Than Shwe's paranoid junta. His country is far larger. Agence France Presse reports that gagged Pakistan cable TV stations run Internet clips. News-starved audiences tripled even as the ratings for government media sagged.

Here again is the old lesson dictators never grasped: The credibility of state mouthpieces, sooner rather than later, will hit rock bottom.

Musharraf's broadcasters or the "New Light of Myanmar" command as much credence as did Marcos' Philippine Daily Express. The only thing you believed was the obituary page. "Their credibility is so low that … even President Marcos admits the press has become too sycophantic and obsequious," The New York Times' Sidney Schanberg wrote.

In China, Burma, and now Pakistan, the question is: Can Internet buck repression?

"Technology is making it harder for dictators to draw a curtain of secrecy," Mydans wrote. "It is not clear how much longer the generals can hold back the future."

Or is talk of the Web's potential to shred dictatorship merely wish fathering thought? Well-wired countries, like the United Arab Emirates and China, cash in on cyberspace benefits but block free flow of information, notes the Atlantic Monthly. "Censorship techniques in these places have become more supple over time."

State-sponsored clamps on the Net, in fact, have spiraled, a study of websites across 120 Internet service providers in 41 countries found. Content filtering was documented in 25 of the countries surveyed. In 2002, such "state-mandated net filtering" occurred in "a couple" of states.

Researchers for OpenNet Initiative were drawn from the University of Toronto, Harvard Law School, Oxford and Cambridge. The study picked countries for the analysis with this main criteria: where there was "the most to learn about government online surveillance."

Among the countries which filter most are: Burma, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Websites and services, such as Skype and Google Maps, were blocked.

"Net filtering almost always happens in the shadows," John Palfrey of Harvard Law School told the BBC. "There has also been an increase in the scale, scope and sophistication of Internet filtering."

The ONI report says that three objectives underpin filtering: politics and power, security concerns, such as terrorist groups, and social norms, like pornography or hate speech. "But once filtering starts, it is applied to a broad range of content. (It) can be used for expanding government control of cyberspace," often against its citizens.

"China proved that the mass of casual surfers can be effectively blinkered by a committed regime," censoring even key words like "democracy" and "Falun Gong," Matthew Quirk writes in "The Web Police." "Even text messages are now perused."

Aside from police tactics, pocketbook clout compels private Internet companies to self-censor, notes Xiao Qiang, who directs the China Internet Project at the University of California, Berkeley. "And there's the Great Firewall, which blocks hundreds of thousands of websites outside of China."

Control of the Internet has become an industry in itself.

"But China is hardly alone." Liberal democracies also filter the Web. "Google first censored its search engine on a state's behalf, not in January to assist China but four years ago." This complied with hate-speech codes in Germany, France and Switzerland.

Worldwide, the main target of government filters is not political speech but pornography, as in Singapore. In Muslim states, sites featuring women's lingerie, alcohol, other religions and criticism of Islam are blocked.

There's irony in Supreme Court Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry's order of March 2006 to block Internet sites displaying Mohammed cartoons. Those gagged sites prevented full Net coverage of his ouster by Musharraf. Now, Pakistan blocks even bloggers. Free spirited bloggers, like Manuel L. Quezon III or former PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza, would wither there.

But savvy users can drill holes through the Internet firewall to keep ahead of censors. In Cuba, a black market in Internet access has sprung up. Information about China seeps out despite the massive censorship.

In "unplugged nations," like Burma and Pakistan, we see the latest of the long story of how news stories get through, from Cleopatra's messenger to Reuters' carrier pigeons, the US pony express to ships, telegraph, telephone, telex and today's computers. And censors invariably lost those races.

* * *

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Footnote to a farce

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A FRIEND OF MINE PUTS IT THIS WAY: whether Moslemen Macarambon is really a protégé of Virgilio Garcillano or not isn't the point. He can't make the Commission on Elections any better or worse than it already is. We want clean elections, let's change all the commissioners. We want clean elections, let's change the Comelec.

I agree. If Macarambon were a Garci protégé, all he'd do is lend credence to the text joke that says: "GMA has appointed a Garci protégé to the Comelec. She means to cheat again in 2010!" Though while at that, that is a prescient observation—about GMA's lack of desire to leave after 2010. In this topsy-turvy world, a joke has a way of being truth, and truth joke.

Otherwise, we want clean elections, finding, or putting, a just man or two in the Comelec isn't going to do the trick. Even Lot gave up on the idea and left Sodom and Gomorrah to God's tender mercies. I said pretty much the same thing a month ago when some business and civic groups welcomed Benjamin Abalos' resignation with the words, "Finally, we can have clean elections." My question was: Why so?

Of course, as head of the Comelec, Abalos was in a powerful position to teach his fellows virtue, or how to accurately count votes, or vice, or how to accurately count bills. His appearance in the Senate on the ZTE deal shows what direction he took. But you have a boss like that, you can always complain. You can always howl in protest to high heaven. I did not hear any of the commissioners do so.

I did not hear any one of them do so when the "Hello Garci" tape came out, as vicious a thwarting of the electoral will as you can find, and demand that Garcillano be made to pay for his crime, tarnishing as he did the reputation of the office they love. I did not hear any one of them do so when Lintang Bedol produced election results in Maguindanao that Ripley himself would not have believed, and demand that he be put behind bars and pay restitution to Koko Pimentel, whose rightful place in the Senate he denied. I did not hear any one of them do so when Abalos awarded the bid to computerize canvassing to a company that wasn't qualified to bid, and demand that it give back to the taxpayers the billions they lost in that deal made in hell.

I not only did not hear them violently protest any of this, I heard them enthusiastically endorse all of this. No, the problem isn't just Abalos, it's the entire Comelec. The solution isn't just Abalos resigning, it's all the commissioners resigning.

Indeed, more than that: The problem isn't just the commissioners, it's the person who appointed them to begin with. It's the person who appointed Virgilio Garcillano, it's the person who appointed Lintang Bedol, it's the person who appointed Benjamin Abalos. Why can we finally have clean elections with the disappearance of Abalos when the person who appointed him, coddled him and benefited from his inability to see, hear and say evil is still around? I did say there was nothing more ludicrous than the business and civic groups tripping all over themselves recommending to GMA the right man, or woman, for the job, forgetting that where GMA stood, Abalos was the right man for the job.

No, the problem isn't just the appointed officials, it's the appointing power. The problem isn't just the election commissioners, it's the presumptive President. The solution isn't just all the commissioners resigning, it's GMA resigning.

But even this still misses the point. For even if we could do the impossible, or seemingly impossible, and remove all the commissioners, change the Comelec, and make GMA disappear from our lives, we still would not get clean elections. There is in fact only one way to do so: That is by jailing those who wrought and benefited from dirty elections and restoring the victims to their rightful place. Crime and punishment—that is a universal, inviolable, unshakeable principle. Where there's a crime, there must be punishment. Where there's no punishment, there's encouragement, and the crime will happen again and again.

However you criticize the Jews, they are awe-inspiring in their recognition, and prosecution, of that principle. They did not just shrug their shoulders and say, "*Nandyan na 'yan*, we've lost six million of our own, we can't do a thing about it, let's just rebuild our lives and move on." They tracked to the very last man and woman and to the very ends of the earth all those who wrought, or participated, in the obscenity that was the Holocaust. There is no way you can move on without closure, and there is no way you can have closure without justice. I've said this again and again, and I will say this again and again: Life does not move on from an unpunished crime, death does.

Whether it's adding one or two just men, or women, to the Comelec, or removing the commissioners and their appointing power wholesale and finding their appropriate replacements, it's still an exercise in futility, or self-delusion. It's reflective of a diseased kind of thinking that says you can build a grand edifice on the bones of the dead. Which is the kind of thinking we've been afflicted with for a long time, and which grows worse by the day, backed up as it is by facile and idiotic judgments that say harping on crime and punishment is "being negative" and ignoring or sweeping under the rug is "being positive." As any architect will tell you, you raise a building on rotten foundations and you'll have a pile of rubble at the first hint of an earthquake—if you're lucky not to see it collapse all by itself.

We keep forgiving and forgetting crime while chattering "Let's move on," we won't move forward, we'll move backward. Or haven't you felt that sensation of reeling or falling these last few years?

Gov. Lee: Sorsogon's disaster cycle needs remedy

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEWLY-resumed Congress remind us that the elections of 2010 are really just around the corner. The leadership issue in the House of Representatives has been resolved, thankfully, with the decision of Lakas-CMD's three top leaders to stay politically united for the sake of the party. Former President Fidel Ramos, the party's founder, lost no time asserting that the Arroyo administration is strong enough to finish its mandate. All these developments are clearly geared not only to help President Macapagal-Arroyo survive various crises, but also to strengthen the administration party's hand in the coming elections.

* * *

Interestingly, the opposition began floating two names as a prospective team for 2010: Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada. To which the administration party quickly countered by floating the names of Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and Sen. Bong Revilla, the latter as "*pangtapat*" for Jinggoy. All these, however, are obviously just floaters: Belmonte has never been known to be interested in any higher post; Binay is saddled with a lot of political baggage; and Estrada and Revilla cannot be taken seriously by any stretch of the imagination.

Note that the politicians who are perceived as real candidates for 2010—Senate President Manuel Villar, Sen. Mar Roxas and Panfilo Lacson—are just watching the developments quietly, with nothing more heard from them beyond Roxas' remark that it's too early to think about 2010. But soon enough the political pot will begin to boil, and realignments should quickly emerge. Central to them will be the Lakas-CMD as the biggest political group but which, at the moment, does not have viable candidates for 2010.

* * *

At the National Conference on Climate Change sponsored by Albay Gov. Joey Sarte Salceda, Sorsogon Gov. Sally Lee talked to me in the hope of reaching the highest decision-makers. Lee is trying to convince them that it would be far better and more sensible to help Sorsogon find a lasting solution to the perennial eruptions of its very restive Mt. Bulusan and lahar problem, instead of resorting to temporary relief measures such as mass evacuations, which only lead to enormous wastage of funds and resources. Just in Bulusan's eruptions last July, nearly 100,000 Sorsoganons living in permanent danger zones were displaced; when the rains came, lahar flowed into six municipalities, the most affected of which was Irosin. The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council conducts disaster-preparedness training year-round, Lee pointed out, but the problem is that when the danger abates somewhat, people go back to their homes.

* * *

This unending cycle of rescue and "normalcy" unfortunately ties up precious government resources, and while school buildings serve as temporary evacuation sites, classes are disrupted, stressed Lee. What Sorsogon needs to do is to create new communities where those in perennial danger will have new livelihood opportunities and can lead "safe, uninterrupted and productive lives," she added. Two parcels of land in Irosin have been identified as relocation sites. I can see the urgency of the problem and Lee's solution is sensible. Recall that to solve the lahar problem of Mt. Pinatubo, the Ramos administration had to construct dikes at the cost of billions. The same thing has to be done in Sorsogon: the government has to bite the bullet to save lives and resources.

* * *

Definitely the grandmother of all annual Christmas bazaars is the "Marche Christmas Bazaar" (Nov. 17-18, 2007 at the Makati Sports Club in Salcedo Village, Makati). Run by the Marche International Foundation headed by its president, Yu Ming Chin, and vice president Myrna Alimurung, the two-day bazaar will feature a wide selection of imported and local novelties, handcrafted jewelry, hand-painted glass vases, mountain carvings from Zambales, Ikea and Toys "R" Us products, brand apparel and bags, Asian and local antiques from Souvenirs Antique Shop, export overruns and many other items. Among those joining are the Trappist Monks of Iloilo (who will be selling their delicious fruit preserves) and various food merchants (who will sell regional delicacies such as *bangus*, *lechon*, Chinese *lumpia* and *siomai*). Axis Global Technologies will give premium discounts on laptops, digital cameras, iPods, etc., while American Gardens will have a buy-one, take-one promo. As in previous years, the Marche Bazaar will benefit a number of philanthropic foundations such as the Rising Phoenix Foundation, which is sponsoring a grand raffle to expand its drug rehabilitation center in Tagaytay. Call Myrna Alimurung at 0917-5368-413 or the secretariat 637-5638.

* * *

Over the years, I've strived to help young artists because I realize how tough it is for them to survive. Caffé Puccini at The Global City will present tenor Juan Alberto Gaerlan in "An Evening of Italian & Neapolitan Songs" this Saturday, Nov. 10, and on Nov. 24 at 8 p.m. He will serenade diners with popular melodies like "O Sole Mio," "Funiculi, Funicula" and "La Donna e Mobile." Gaerlan, who is managed by the Philippine Opera Company under soprano Karla Patricia Gutierrez, trained at the UP College of Music and subsequently under various musical personalities abroad. He completed his professional diploma studies in Western Opera at the Hongkong Academy for Performing Arts where he graduated with distinction. He has had extensive singing experience abroad and represented the country at the Rosa Ponselle International Voice Competition in Washington, D.C., where jury chair Maestro Igor Chichagov took him as a personal scholar and protégé. For inquiries, call Philippine Opera Company 892-8786 or Caffe Puccini at 816-3054 and 3055.

Rock and refuge: NPC then

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IT WAS OUR ROCK AND REFUGE. IT WAS OUR sanctuary during the dying days of martial rule. That was the National Press Club for us in the early 1980s.

Many of us were greenhorns in journalism then, upstart freelancers from the so-called "mosquito press" (OK, alternative, and sometimes underground—and underwater if you were the "Ichthys" type) who made bold forays into the mainstream media and were continually at odds with the Marcos military. Hunted, surveilled, "invited," manacled and thrown into jail.

Standing tall by the banks of the Pasig River was the NPC which was founded and built by the generation of journalists before ours, a good number of whom bore the brunt of military fury when the reign of terror began in 1972. The founders did not build the NPC in the 1950s for the purpose that served us in the 1980s. It was supposed to be a club, a watering hole for the old boys who wanted to unwind after a day's work at the editorial office or on the beat. Not long after, the culturati and the literati also made it their haunt.

Vicente Manansala's mural on lawanit in the dining hall gave it ambience. The mural (gone and sold I don't know where) withstood the smoke, grime and slime from overbearing journalists who thought the masterpiece was their birthright.

But when darkness descended on the media in 1972 and caught many of them off-guard, the NPC began to get transformed from a happy-hour place into a fortress. It was no longer just a watering hole but also a gathering hall for those who valued press freedom.

In the 1980s, it was our upstart generation's turn to flock to the place and turn it into our refuge and sanctuary. The Plaridel Hall (named after hero Marcelo H. del Pilar) on the third floor was a favorite venue, not just of journalists, but also of those from other sectors (labor, church, students, urban poor, civil society) who wanted to say something loud and subversive.

I have kept two embroidered NPC patches with the words "Don't shoot journalists." That was when journalists were considered endangered species. (We are again endangered now.) We wore them on our sleeves, lapels and breast pockets. I wanted to wear them again recently, but the year on them would make me look dated indeed.

But what other activities, aside from forums and discussions, did journalists plot and hatch at the NPC during those martial law days?

We did books! And I have copies of those books. We did "Press Freedom Under Siege" Volume 1 (1984) and Volume 2 (1985). It was the Women Writers in Media Now (Women) that poured a lot into these books. I remember staying late up to NPC's closing time with Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon and Noree A. Briscoe so we could finish the book on time. We called ourselves the NPC's Committee to Protect Writers' Rights (writers' warts, we told ourselves). Bogie Tence-Ruiz did the art work on the covers: a typewriter with barbed wire for keys for the first volume and a mock-up of a censored manuscript of a human rights story for the second volume.

We thought we had it all done well but when the finished product came out, we saw that the spelling of the word "siege" on the book spine was "seige." That was a most important word and it was misspelled! It became a collector's item.

We thought one volume would be enough but when the repression continued, we had to come out with another volume. NPC president Antonio Ma. Nieva and We Forum (later Malaya) publisher and editor Jose Burgos had just emerged from the military stockade.

The articles (essays, investigative stories, column pieces) in the two volumes were those that got journalists into trouble with the powers-that-be, plus pieces from great thinkers and doers who understood the role of the press. Military interrogation transcripts (as recalled) were also included.

There was another book that emerged from the NPC. It contained the proceedings of one of the no-holds-barred discussion on press censorship. I have it on my bookshelf but I couldn't find it fast enough for now. A slew of books, theses and doctoral dissertations (I know one by an American journalist) on press freedom and how Filipino journalists fared and fought came out of this dreadful area. It was indeed a time of grit, of grace.

Now a great furor continues to swirl around the National Press Club because of its officers' decision to edit and censor its newly commissioned mural on press freedom without the knowledge and permission of the Neo-Angono Artists Collective, that did it. It was an INQUIRER banner story that shocked us all.

I don't know when exactly and how NPC's transmogrification into what it is now took place. I just know that the last time I was there, to borrow Conrad de Quiros' recollection, was in the past century. That would be more than seven, 10 years ago. It must have been around that time that my membership, and the membership of my women colleagues in media, ended.

It is not that we had outgrown the NPC. The NPC was just no longer what it used to be. We had moved on and there were other newer, more fearless media groups that suited our tempers and temperament.

The fire had not died. We had not changed. The NPC that our fearless, upstart generation knew had changed.

* * *

If you need vegetable seeds, go to the Bureau of Plants in San Andres, Manila (near the fruit market). Plenty and cheap. You could get a free illustrated book on vegetable gardening in Filipino by agriculture experts if you could prove you're serious about food production and food security for the poor.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Postcard Power!

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THIS INVOLVES SOME ARTS AND CRAFTS, BUT it's something you can do in school, at home, in your office (during breaktime, of course) and you will only need scissors, some paste, some cardboard and a stamp. Whoever thought you and I would share a Martha Stewart moment? But it's for a good cause.

You'll find, at the bottom of this column, the design for the postcard we intend to mail to President Macapagal-Arroyo tomorrow. If you'd like to join us, meet us at the foot of the Ninoy Aquino statue in Ayala Avenue, at 11:30 a.m. At 12 noon, sharp, we're going to make our way to the Makati Central Post Office, to line up, get stamps and send our postcard directly to the President. We expect everything to be done by 1 p.m. If you work in the area, you might want to get permission from your boss to get a little extra grace period from your lunch break. Or if you're a boss, you may want to let your workers know that you won't penalize them for taking a few extra minutes from work, to satisfy their civic conscience.

Or, wherever you may be, there's surely a post office near you. And here's where the arts and crafts comes in. You can clip out the bigger portion, below, with our message, and paste it to a piece of cardboard, and on the other side, you can paste the smaller image, which is the design for the front of the postcard. Fill it out, add a stamp, and mail it. If you and some friends have access to a Xerox machine, you could make as many postcards as you have sheets of paper (and toner). This is a particularly satisfying use of office supplies if your boss happens to be a crony of the President.

If you'd like to print a full-color version, or the greeting card version, please visit http://www.pinoybigbriber.com. Vote and click on the "downloadables" link, now *na*!

That's all there is to it. It sends a message direct to She-Who-Shall-Not-Be-Named (except in the postcard), lets her know exactly how you feel, and is a perfectly legal, democratic exercise of your right to be heard and to let your highest official know your sentiments. Encourage your friends to do the same. And if you don't like our design, design your own! Create your own message! But send it, and if you can, send it on Friday so that piles and piles of postcards reach the President's desk and she knows exactly how you feel.

Tomorrow, Filipinos in Riyadh, San Francisco, Seoul, Tokyo, Cambodia and Hong Kong will be bringing manifestos to their local Philippine embassy or consulate expressing their dissatisfaction with the cash bar and buffet in the Palace, and with all the multiplying manifestations of monkey business on the part of our officials.

There will be postcards sent, too. A reader from Dubai has already sent his; another from Riyadh has also sent his, and made copies to distribute to friends; another reader, a full-time mother, will be mailing hers from Laguna. This act of peaceful protest is also being adopted by other groups, which have their own messages to send, but which all have agreed on one, single addressee.

Personally, I'm going to send the postcard to selected congressmen and governors, and some bishops, because, as you can see, the message is applicable not only to the operator of the cash buffet, but also to those taking turns to line up for a cash feeding from the She-Who-Shall-Not-Be-Named (except in the postcard).

See you tomorrow!

Dear Ate Glo,

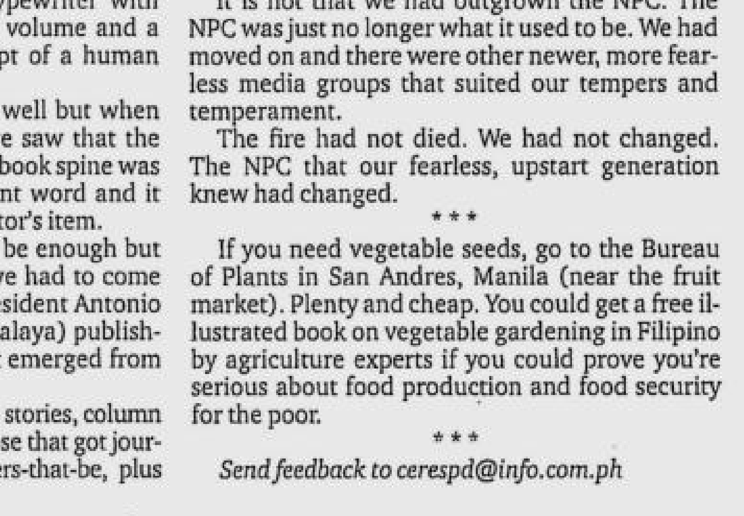
I am sorry. You are evicted na.

Sincerely,

P.S.
"Kaya mong gaguhin ang ilang tao sa lahat ng panahon.
Kaya mong gaguhin ang lahat ng tao sa konting panahon.
Pero di mo kayang gaguhin ang lahat ng tao sa lahat ng panahon."
Abraham Lincoln

Ms. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Malacañang Palace
San Miguel, Manila
Philippines

Postcard designed by the Black and White Movement



Ordinary people

YOUNG BLOOD

Sarah Amelyn G. Bautista

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WE READ THE NEWSPAPER, LISTEN TO THE RADIO, watch the news on TV, and what greet our senses are the lives of our politicians and most of the time they are not good news. Like a leech stuck on the skin, politicians have become synonymous with depressing events: lies, corruption, overpriced and insignificant projects (and lack of relevant ones) economic crisis, etc. We don't need to consult a crystal ball because from all this, we can already see where we are headed in the future.

But why don't we turn the tables on our politicians and make them read about the lives of common people? This might make them realize a lot of things: that true happiness is not defined by how much money one has; that a man's essence is found not in his bank account but in his character; that life can be lived simply; that inner peace is gained by being at peace with the world outside and the people around you; that when one dies, his value cannot be determined from what is written in his obituary but from the memories he left in the hearts and minds of others.

For our political leaders to learn about the lives of ordinary people, I recommend that they read Youngblood. It tells the stories of people these leaders have promised to serve, of simple beings who pass by corridors unnoticed but whose smiles lighten up the world. Some are fighting hard battles. Others are ready to sally forth on a noble mission. And yet they remain nameless.

I am inexorably drawn to them as I read their stories and I pray that our politicians read them, too. There's Tina who wrote "To limp or to fly." Having no car and being temporarily crippled, she had to endure daily the agonizing journey to and from work. I've met Mong, the "Activist lover" who found love in the picket line while fighting for democracy. can imagine how hard growing up was for AGM who recounted in "More than average" how, at a very young age she had to wake up in the wee hours of morning to help prepare a thousand cheese sticks for delivery to the school canteen. There was Ariel ("Scholarship") who chose to teach in a public university to promote his vision of rebuilding the nation. Alec ("To stay and teach") followed his dream of serving the Bikolanos and teaching young minds the beauty of the Bikol culture. I've known Karlo ("The good father") who saw the real essence of his father when the latter could no longer provide for their material needs. I admired Janice's dad ("On the same street"), a police officer who didn stop her from being an activist and tried to keep the family' dignity intact amid hard times while many of his colleague in the police force enjoyed a hedonistic lifestyle. And there was Raul ("Fruit of life") who felt hopeful and happy in the presence of his small family even if he did not know if the money they had could buy them enough food until his nex pay day.

I'm as ordinary as these other young people. I have a 9-to 5 job. The salary I earn leaves me enough to contribute to th household expenses. Saturdays are spent with the peopl who matter to me, while Sundays are for God and the kids i a community where I serve as a Gawad Kalinga voluntee I'm as ordinary as those who shared glimpses of their live and their views. But every time I read about them in Youngblood, the mundane lives they live become extraordinary. I feels good to know that in this time of crisis, there are peopl who share with me the same beliefs, values, hopes, fears an dreams. The ideals and convictions I hold are strengthened. feel a sense of security in knowing that my inner voice is i harmony with that of humanity. There's serenity in believin that no matter how bad our politics and economy may ge some feelings are universal, some values remain unsainte and some beliefs remain unshaken.

We share a common destiny. We are one in our aspiratio to secure for ourselves, our families, our children and ou children's children a measure of justice, dignity and freedom. I have the same simple dreams as other Youngbloo writers and the rest of the Filipino people.

I hope our stories will remind our politicians of the goo old days when things were less complicated, when the found happiness in simple things, and when they listened t their consciences. I hope our stories will bring them back t their childhood when they trusted so easily and to their adolescence when being trusted was most important for them hope they will revisit their grade school years, when the wouldn't think of stealing even just P1 from their parents classmates, no matter how tempting was the candy in th store. I hope they will be transported back to their hig school classrooms where they were taught to be *maka-ta maka-bayan, at maka-Diyos* by teachers whom they look up to and who lived within their meager income but still remained respectable and dignified.

Reading the stories of our generation should also brin back the politicians to their college years when they wer still full of promise and idealism and eager to serve th country, no matter in what capacity. It should help them remember their first jobs, when they would work very har and stay in the office until all their tasks were done. Tho among them who weren't born with a silver spoon in the mouths ought to recall the times when they barely surviv on their pay, and yet they didn't cheat and still managed t bring home some goodies for their younger siblings or children. Unless their hearts have truly hardened and the memories and consciences have been irretrievably lost believe that they would gain so much from reading Youngblood.

I am sure that there are millions of stories out there fro ordinary folks that have yet to be written. Theirs are stori about sacrifice, courage, pain, romance, battles lost and vi tories won, memories unforgotten and lives lived well. If o leaders truly want to know how the youth feel and what th think about the things happening around them, all they ne to do is turn to Youngblood.

Sarah Amelyn G. Bautista, 24, is a marketing executive. Sh willing to lend her collection of Youngblood articles to anyo who is interested, but public officials are her priority.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Erap has shown his true mettle

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada should not have asked for pardon. He should have allowed himself to be incarcerated in the New Bilibid Prisons instead. The sight of a beleaguered opposition leader persecuted by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would have ignited outrage. It would have started a furor more intense than Edsa 3. It would have renewed the masses' fervor to oust the incumbent President.

But Erap cannot see beyond the prison cell. And now we know the true mettle of which he is made of. Erap would have been the lesser evil battling the greater evil, the smaller villain challenging the larger villain. Our society has lost the power to fight evil with good such that we have to kill snakes by using snakes. Erap has lost his chance to have vindication.

But GMA cannot yet rejoice or relax. By imposing her power over Erap, she is now losing that same power. Not only does absolute power corrupt absolutely, it destroys the person who wields it.

—LEO ALMONTE,
napalmonte@yahoo.com

Instead of sulking, let's reclaim Edsa from elite

WE ARE GLAD THAT PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has pardoned Joseph "Erap" Esstrada. We thank both of them for reminding everyone that justice here in our society is a plaything of the rich and powerful, that the search for truth can only end up in a blind alley.

We are also glad to know that Ms Arroyo is capable of feeling—never mind how twisted her brand of compassion is—whenever her political survival is on the line. We are glad Ms Arroyo once again spat on the spirit of Edsa 2, thus reminding everybody—especially the middle class—that it takes more than a restrained remonstration to build a better future, to free our people from the elite's exploitation and domination.

We are glad Erap puked on the masses who stormed the gates of Malacañang at the height of Edsa 3, that he swindled those who believed in him, those who sacrificed and died for him. We are glad the self-styled champion of the poor accepted a cowardly, pathetic and self-gratifying settlement with the same faction of the elite he regularly lambasted as the "real enemy," that he finally went back to the fold of his social class. We are glad that with his newfound freedom, he frustrated the Filipino people's longing for truth, justice and accountability.

We are glad that GMA and Erap have finally shed every cloak of pretension, removed every prop of the make-believe "Erap-Gloria war," thus freeing us from the pressure of choosing between "Erap for the masses" and "Gloria of economic paradise."

Now it's clear: the fight is between them and us, between the haves and have-nots, between the different factions of the elite, on one side, and the poor who for the longest time have been sidelined, used and abused, on the other.

Now, let us march on the streets not in their name, not with their plundered resources, not upon their prodding; without them, without their plastic smiles, without their fake patriotism, without their unsolicited leadership, without their phony loyalty to the people—the same people they unhesitatingly rob and oppress once they are in power.

We are sick and tired of them all. Let us tell them that we are tired of elitist "reruns," of their unchanging, conjured dreams, of the same *trapo* governance.

We must muster our strength because a better world is not only possible but is under construction. We should not limit ourselves to outlining an alternative society; we must begin building the edifice of a humane and egalitarian future, now! Let us spare the generations to come this system.

Instead of getting frustrated and disappointed, instead of running away to some First World country, instead of being paralyzed by apathy and indifference, let us have the resolve to have another Edsa. Let us reclaim it from the elite who bastardized it.

Let a hundred Edsas bloom. Edsa uprisings that are radical, mass-oriented and explicitly against the rule of the elite.

—EMMANUEL M. HIZON,
JAMES MATTHEW B. MIRAFLOR,
39-E Maginoo St.,
Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

LETTERS

Why not admit there was payola?

I WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THE extreme honesty of a priest-turned-politician, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, when he told the truth and nothing but the truth, about the cash gift that was given to him in Malacañang. I highly appreciated his moral courage in displaying and presenting to the media the P500,000 given to him after a conference with President Macapagal-Arroyo. (INQUIRER, 10/16/07) In fact, Panlilio wanted to return the money.

However, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, even though it recognized the moral bankruptcy of our leaders, nevertheless urged those concerned to admit to having been the beneficiaries of or witnesses to the scandalous Palace "benevolence." CBCP president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said, "From a moral standpoint, one should not accept money about which questions can be asked because it renders responsibility, accountability and transparency a dubious subject matter." He further said, "With this sort of thing happening, our country is suffering not only from economic bankruptcy but also moral bankruptcy, disappointingly being shown by our leaders." (INQUIRER, 10/17/07)

I also commend Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza for admitting on national television that he also received a share of the bounty. How about the two other Bicol governors who likewise received similar gifts but did not want to make the fact known to the public? Why do the congressmen and other governors have to vehemently deny receiving cash gifts when there was nobody questioning their integrity?

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR.,
Barangay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte 4600

Anti-GMA ergo pro-Erap, no more

IN PARDONING FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada, Gloria-Macapagal Arroyo may have overestimated his significance as a political figure. If her purpose in granting him pardon was to gain the support of her opponents, she should brace herself for a big disappointment. Up to now, there is no clear indication that the Filipinos who favor Estrada now support Ms Arroyo. Instead of strengthening her hold on power, the pardon appears to have had the opposite effect.

Whatever aura of integrity Estrada still had has been eroded by his suddenly less combative attitude toward the Arroyo administration. People once closely allied with him such as Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, leader of the United Opposition, have begun to express doubt about his true intentions. Estrada's new marginalization from the political opposition is propitious in that it signals to the public that rallying against Ms Arroyo can no longer be simply equated with siding with Estrada.

On the other hand, Ms Arroyo's remaining credibility has been further diminished. Respected public figures who have defended the administration like Senators Richard Gordon and Joker Arroyo have vehemently condemned the pardon as an act of political expediency. Even former President Fidel Ramos, who helped save the Arroyo administration in 2005, has called it "a terrible calamity."

If the aftermath of the Estrada pardon shows us anything, it is that the real threat to Philippine democracy is not communism or terrorism as Ms Arroyo has repeatedly claimed. Neither is it graft and corruption, which ignited the previous Edsa revolts. The real threat at this moment is the plague of transactional politics that Estrada and Ms Arroyo, now more than ever, embody, and which we should no longer tolerate.

—ELMO GONZAGA,
fgonzaga@ateneo.edu

No moral authority to rule

THE PARDON GIVEN TO FORMER President Joseph Estrada is an insult to every Filipino here and abroad. This convict did not even have the decency to apologize for all his wrongdoings or to personally sign his plea for pardon.

Why pardon someone who does not admit his guilt? Politicians who dipped their hands into his pocket say that six and a half years in prison is enough.

What prison? He is the only suspect in custody given the most special treatment while on trial and even after conviction.

What message would this pardon give to the Filipino people? Almost a decade ago, a student asked me, "Why do I need to finish a college degree to land a better job when our dear President Erap did not even finish high school?"

I wonder where the student is now and what question he may ask this time. This pardon clearly shows President Macapagal-Arroyo's weak moral authority to govern.

Madame President, I am so sorry that I voted for you "not just once, but twice."

—LEVI REYES,
levisan@hotmail.com

Make peace with Edsa 2 forces

I BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo should reconcile with the people who made possible her ascent to Malacañang via Edsa 2, not with Joseph Estrada who plundered this country.

—DAVE TABANIAG,
davidtabaniag@yahoo.com

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Sustainable solution to hunger problem needed

THE RICE WATCH AND ACTION NETWORK (R1) raises alarm over the incidence of hunger in the Philippines (INQUIRER, 10/ 2/07) which was recently recorded at its highest by a non-government survey firm. In connection with this, R1 also urges the government to rethink its food policy and to do more than just distributing free noodles and other food packs in barangays.

R1 is a group of rice farmers and non-government organizations. We, its members, urge Congress to use the current budget deliberations in seeking the accountability of government agencies for the unprecedented level of hunger incidence nationwide, instead of holding government officials hostage to selfish political agenda.

We dare the government to address the hunger problem with a coherent and sustainable food security policy and to desist from "politician-driven" food distribution programs, especially in rural areas. The people need sustainable means of livelihood to meet their daily food requirements.

Rural poverty remains a major component of the total poverty picture as some 70 percent of the country's poor live in rural areas.

Considering the train of unsound and graft-tainted government priority programs, our legislators would serve the people better by scrutinizing major government policies on addressing the hunger problem.

The Department of Agriculture wants government's 2008 budget to again subsidize the Hybrid Rice Commercialization Program (HRCP), this despite previous reports about the misuse of funds and the program's failure to increase production and farmers' income.

The 2007 World Bank report on the DA's public expenditures says that the human resources and the sizeable amount of money used on the HRCP did not provide significant net social benefit. The million jobs and social benefits the program was supposed to make available in the countryside did not materialize. The taxpayers' money allotted to this program for the past six years was just wasted. The World Bank report also criticized the allocation of the bulk of production support (about 85 percent) to the GMA rice program, in particular the HRCP.

On the other hand, we have seen how the government used past hunger incidence surveys to launch defensive or offensive propaganda campaigns.

World Food Day was observed on Oct. 16. People, especially the poor farmers in rural areas, expect more than lip service from agriculture and other public officials. They want tangible and well-grounded measures to go with government propaganda.

—JESSICA REYES-CANTOS,
lead convenor,
Rice Watch and Action Network (R1),
40 Matulungin St.,
Barangay Central District,
Diliman, Quezon City

More vigilance needed after Glorietta 2 blast

THE PROMOTION OF CHURCH PEOPLE'S RESponse (PCPR) expresses deep concern over the deadly explosion at the Glorietta Mall in Makati City last Oct. 19. A thorough and credible investigation of the incident must be done.

In the face of the series of corruption scandals rocking the Arroyo administration, we cannot dismiss the possibility that Malacañang may have had a hand in that incident. At this point, the Arroyo clique is desperate to escape public outrage over its latest scams, including the Malacañang payoffs. Was President Macapagal-Arroyo so stung and threatened by the Catholic bishops' recent pronouncements following Gov. Eddie Panlilio's explosive testimony on the Malacañang cash gifts? We cannot help but wonder if the explosion was caused by those who wish to deflect public attention from the burning issues hounding Ms Arroyo.

The Glorietta explosion reminds us of the deadly blasts in the Davao airport, Sasa wharf and a number of malls, markets and other public places in Mindanao. Those bombings happened at a time of political turmoil during the Arroyo presidency and while government was trying to justify continuing US military presence in Mindanao.

These bombings were used by Ms Arroyo to declare a state of lawlessness and to authorize police forces to raid communities and arrest scores of innocent Muslims wrongly accused as terrorists. These bombings were also used by Ms Arroyo's lawmakers to justify the passage of an anti-terrorism law notwithstanding public opposition to it amid concerns over its implications to civil liberties. We therefore call on Filipinos to exercise vigilance in the face of extremely repressive schemes that may be unleashed by the Arroyo administration.

—AMIE DURAL,
secretary general,
Promotion of Church People's Response,
3/F NCCP Compound, 879 Edsa, Quezon City

GSIS, SSS should invest in RP with foreign partners

SEN. LOREN LEGARDA IS URGING THE GOVernment Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS) to reassess their plans of investing P63 billion of their members' money overseas because the peso is expected to further strengthen in the next two years.

The Department of Agriculture is finalizing another set of investment agreements with India, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said. (INQUIRER, 10/8/07)

Instead of investing abroad, the GSIS and SSS should invest their money here by inviting foreign investors to establish their businesses here. This will solve partially the unemployment problem and hunger.

In the third quarter of 2006, a Social Weather Stations survey found that around 2.9 million families have nothing to eat at one time or another.

From January to April this year, around 8,903, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) left for work abroad via the Mactan-Cebu International Airport, not to mention the country's other international airports.

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,
Rositaville Subdivision,
Concepcion I, Marikina City

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SCTEx interchange war declared over

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE "BATTLE OF INterchanges" that pitted Pampanga politicians and officials of the Bases Conversion Development Authority is over.

On Tuesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo restored the original plan to build three interchanges on the Pampanga side of the P27-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx).

Narciso Abaya, BCDA president and chief executive officer, and Secretary Edgardo Pamintuan, chair of the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Council, confirmed Ms Arroyo's decision to the INQUIRER in separate phone interviews on Tuesday.

Battle over

Abaya said he announced that decision, made on the "policy guidance" of Ms Arroyo, during Tuesday's meeting with Pampanga officials.

"Everybody is happy. The battle of the interchanges is over," he said.

According to the BCDA plan, the first interchange will be built near the Philippine Air Force's Basa Air Base in Floridablanca town.

The second will be built in Barangay Dolores in Porac town while the third will be put up near the Yokohama Philippines Compound, which is close to the proposed logistics center of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at the Clark Freeport.

Of those, only the Dolores Interchange, as proposed by Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, was retained in its original site, Pamintuan Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, City of San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez and leaders of the Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon, agreed to junk the Manuali Interchange in Porac because the Basa site would be connected to access roads leading to the FVR Megadike's western and eastern dikes that lead to San Fernando.

Abaya said the three interchanges would cost between P700 and P750 million. Access roads for the Basa site will cost P110 million while the one in Dolores, which will need a bridge, will cost P170 million.

The funds to build these will be taken from a supplemental loan the BCDA got from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, savings from the SCTEx and additional funds from the Department of Public Works and Highways. Pamintuan said Panlilio committed to work for a P30-million support fund from the provincial government.

Ms Arroyo's decision brought to 11 the total interchanges for the SCTEx. Two are in Bataan, three in Pampanga, three in Tarlac and three in Clark.

Abaya said the interchanges and access roads would be finished by March 2008, in time for the full operation of the SCTEx.

Not complete

The 50.5-km Subic-Clark section was 87 percent complete while the 43.27-km Clark-Tarlac stretch was 97 percent done as of Nov. 5, Abaya said.

Pamintuan said the interchanges would boost the potentials of the "SCTEx 13." *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Albay village put in state of calamity after fishkill

LEGAZPI CITY—THE MUNICIPAL government of Rapu-Rapu in Albay placed Barangay Poblacion in a state of calamity on Wednesday after residents demanded immediate relief from the fishkill on Oct. 28.

Antimining groups immediately pointed fingers at the Lafayatte Mining Inc. as the one responsible for the fishkill, which they said took away the livelihood of thousands of villagers.

The mine firm operates an 18-hectare open pit copper and zinc mine in the island town east of Legazpi City.

Cleared

Five days after the reported fishkill, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources cleared the mine firm of any hand in the fishkill, saying the string of dead fish was found 10 kilometers away from the mine site.

The DENR, however, could not establish the cause of the fishkill. Neither could those pointing to the mining operations.

DENR sought the assistance of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in conducting tests.

Rapu-Rapu residents, who have been camping out in front of the municipal hall since Monday night, were not satisfied with what they called a "lukewarm response" of the municipal government.

Emotional

Fr. Andres Baliwas, Sta. Florentina parish priest of Rapu-Rapu, Albay said around 2,000 people, or 90 percent of the Poblacion populace, trooped to the municipal hall to wait for the outcome of the legislative session.

"The people had been very emotional. Some cried as they marched because the fishkill has made them poorer and left their children hungry. The fishermen still cannot fish," Baliwas said in mobile phone interview.

He added that the 20 sacks of rice ordered released by the local government would not suffice for the long-term needs of the people, that was why they were calling for the closure of Lafayette so their livelihood would be protected.

Only I barangay

Rapu-Rapu Mayor Dick Galicia, in mobile phone interview, said the state of calamity was only confined to Barangay Poblacion because it was only where the fishkill reportedly occurred.

He said the municipal council first wanted to conduct its own, independent investigation before it passes a resolution urging the permanent stop of the mining operations.

On Saturday, the municipal council agreed to conduct its own fact-finding mission and to survey public opinion.

Similarly, the Albay provincial board also did not approve on Wednesday the resolution passed by Albay Vice Gov. Brando Sael urging the DENR to suspend the operations of the Lafayette Philippines Inc. while investigations on the fishkill were ongoing. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

FOR PROTECTION JOAN BONDOC

A child takes a closer look at an armed guard posted at a bus terminal in Cubao, Quezon City to enforce tight security measures at the height of the All Saints' Day exodus of Metro Manila residents to the provinces.

Army to probe troops' role in island gun party

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE PHILIPPINE Army will investigate a report that government soldiers escorted a private group that indiscriminately fired M-16 rifles while on an island in Hinoba-an town, 199 km south of Bacolod City.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon on Tuesday said he informed Col. Honorato de los Reyes, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, of the complaint of United Sugar Producers Association of the Philippines president Manuel Lamata about the incident.

Marañon said De los Reyes promised to investigate.

Lamata sent on Tuesday letter-complaints to Marañon and Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

He said that on Oct. 30, Lamata said he, his family and some guests were spending the All Souls and Saints Day holiday in his beach house in Barangay Talacagay, Hinoba-an when soldiers from the 61st Infantry Battalion arrived on Pitogo Island, a small islet about half a kilometer from the mainland and just across where Lamata's and several other beach houses are located.

Lamata said the soldiers, led by a Lt. Col. Romeo Basco, were escorting Raul Hautea's family, the Tongoy family and Peter Zewitsky, who owns the Pitogo Island.

Hautea's brother is retired Air Force Col. Raul Hautea, Lamata said.

He said while the Army men were on Pitogo Island, their group fired M-16 rifles even if there was a gun ban imposed by the Commission on Elections.

"The whole community was scared because bullets were ricocheting in the beach where guest houses are located (on the mainland) in front of Pitogo Island. We all had to run and hide in our bathrooms for fear of being hit by stray bullets. All our guests packed up and left for Bacolod immediately," he said.

He said the indiscriminate firing continued on Oct. 31 and on Nov. 1. On Nov. 3, Lamata said he and his guests went out on their speedboat, thinking the firing was over.

"We went out on our speedboat to water ski. While I was near the (Pitogo) island, shots were being fired. I stopped and when I looked up I saw the Australian citizen whom I personally know as Peter Zewitsky and Raul Hautea firing M-16 (rifles) towards the water and the bullets were passing very near the boat," Lamata said in his complaint.

He said the soldiers didn't stop them.

US to donate $38,000 for preservation of terraces

BAGUIO CITY—THE UNITED States is donating $38,000 to help efforts in preserving the Ifugao rice terraces, which have been classified as endangered among the World Heritage Sites accredited by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney said an international body is meeting in Ifugao from Dec. 3 to 7 to discuss the heritage's plight.

The donation is part of the embassy's cultural conservation programs and is intended for "teaching people how to preserve the rice terraces," Kenney told reporters here on Tuesday.

Tony Perez, cultural affairs specialist of the US Department of State, said the conference aims to produce a manual for conserving the terraces.

He said experts who comprise the Comité International d'Architecture Vernaculair (CIAV or the International Committee for Vernacular Architecture) would attend the conference.

But Perez said the gathering does not intend to critique Ifugao's conservation plans.

Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. plans to address the terraces' deterioration by determining what the families who own them intend to do with them.

The terraces are ancestral farms owned by Ifugao clans, but most remain untended because younger family members have chosen to leave for the cities or other urban centers to work, Baguilat told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Relief goods lay wasting in town warehouse

By Jaymee T. Gamil
Inquirer Southern Luzon

DARAGA, ALBAY—UNDISTRIBUTED relief goods, possibly donations for last year's typhoon victims, have been discovered already expiring inside a municipal warehouse here.

Acting on a tip from the municipal social welfare office on Oct. 31, Mayor Cicero Triunfante was aghast to find sacks of rice and boxes of noodles, canned goods, biscuits, coffee and other perishable items on the second floor of the local general services office.

It was not certain how long the expired goods had been stored in the warehouse, or who donated them, Triunfante said. "Since I assumed office on June 30, the warehouse employees never submitted an inventory for that stock," he said.

The noodle packs showed that they had reached their expiration dates in July and August, while three sacks of rice were already infested with black worms, he said.

"We also found some blankets, mats and mosquito nets," the mayor said. He said he even recognized some of the items which he had approved as donations that arrived in Albay when he was still provincial administrator in February.

Triunfante said that when he asked for additional relief goods for victims of Typhoon "Bebeng" in July, "that would have been a good time for them to tell me we could use the available goods instead."

"They never did, and now, most of the goods are not fit for consumption," he said.

An inventory of the goods is currently being completed, and the usable items are being set aside.

"Just a small portion of those expired goods could have helped a lot of displaced families," Triunfante lamented.

On Wednesday, the mayor issued a memorandum to the warehouse employees, requiring them to explain within 72 hours why the goods had not been distributed and why they continuously failed to submit an inventory for them.

"I really cannot fathom what their motives were for concealing these goods. But I am already anticipating that I will not be satisfied with their explanations," Triunfante said.

Francisco Lleva, the local GSO head, and his subordinates have yet to answer the directive.

The mayor said that whether they respond or not, he would be slapping administrative charges against Lleva and the other office employees.

SOME OF the donated blankets that were never distributed to victims of Supertyphoon Reming in Albay are still wrapped in plastic and kept in the Daraga town warehouse. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

"Their failure to produce records all this time tells me that they are not fit for that office," Triunfante said.

The mayor of Legazpi City had expressed optimism his city would rise again after the devastation of the floods.

"Disaster has been a usual part of our lives here. But I believe that Legazpi has its own life and its own potentials." Mayor Noel Rosal was quoted as saying shortly after assessing the damage caused by Supertyphoon Reming to the city. *With a report from Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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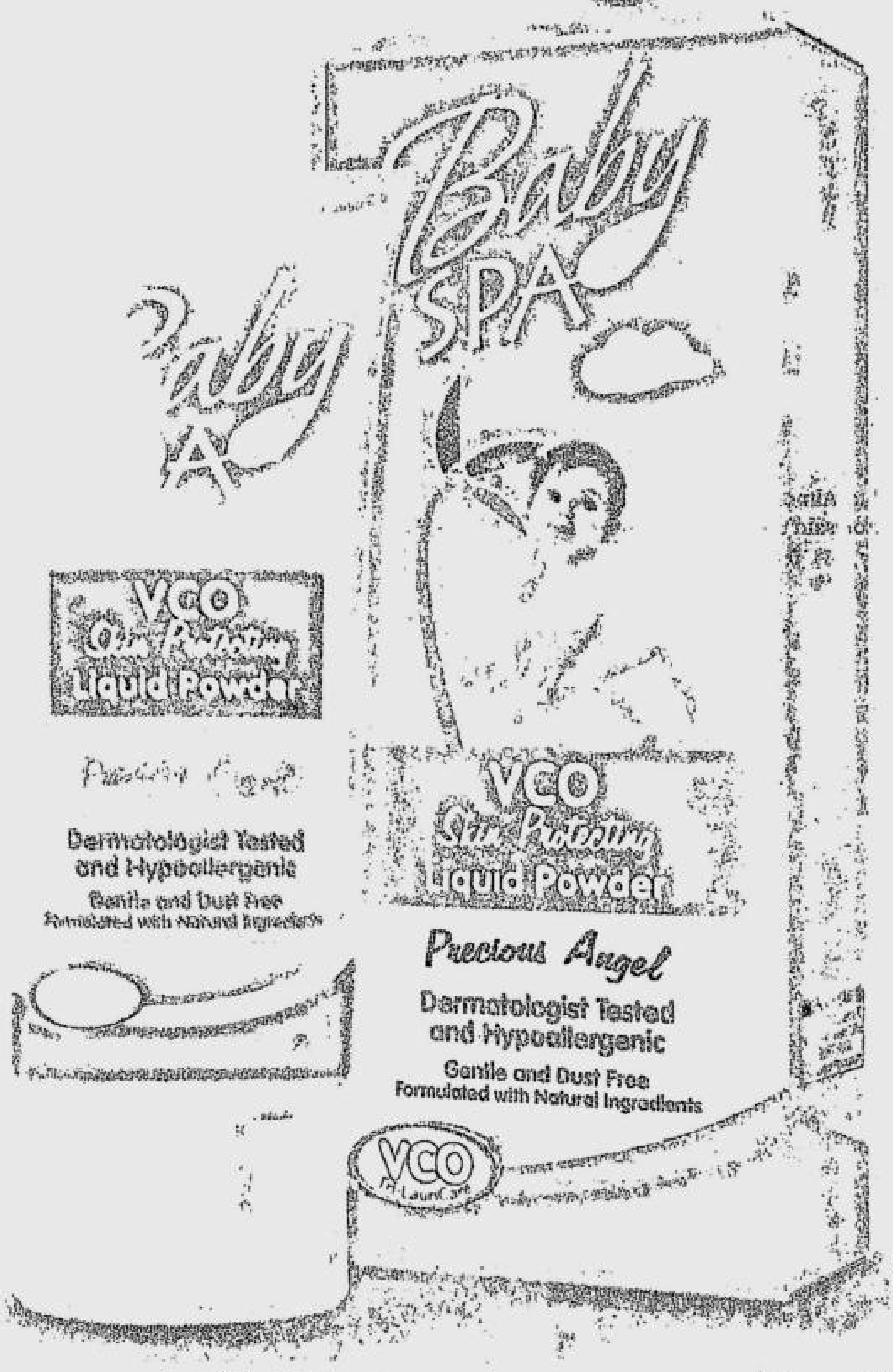
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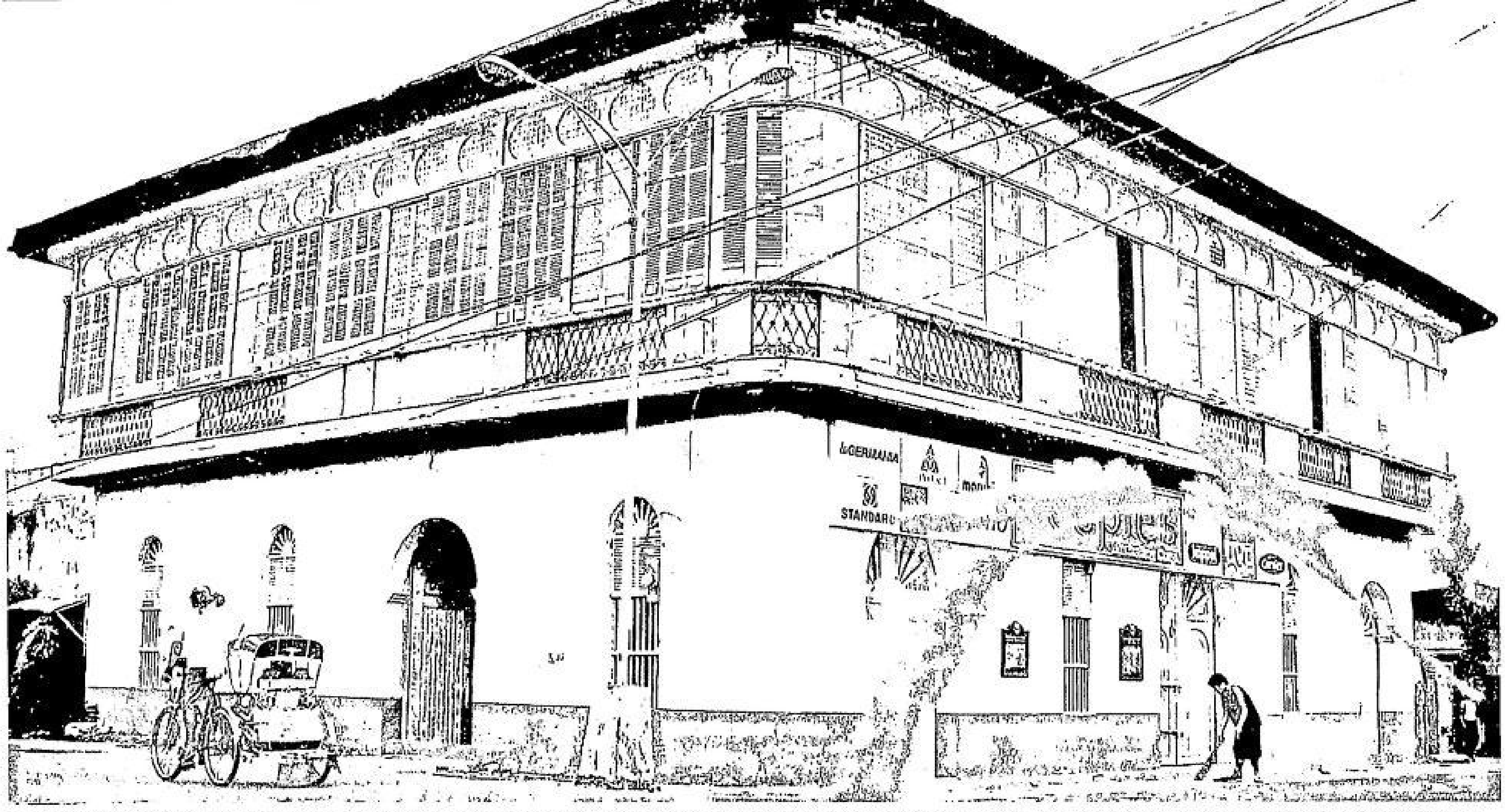


THIS CENTURY-OLD building, the ancestral home of renowned Filipino poet Angela Manalang-Gloria, in Tabaco City is a distinct example of the wood-and-stone houses built during the Spanish period.

PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

History, poetry under one roof

By Ephraim Aguilar
Tabaco City

A CENTURY-OLD, SPANISH-style house of stone and *capiz* windows in Tabaco City in Albay still exudes a distinct richness in cultural heritage and history as that of its illustrious occupant, Angela Manalang-Gloria, regarded as the "matriarch" of Filipino women poets in English.

It was doubly significant, therefore, when the National Historical Institute unveiled last week two markers at the Manalang-Gloria ancestral home near the city's international port.

Sitting on a 3,700-square-meter property, the house was built in the early 1900s by a wealthy Bicolano, Don Mariano Villanueva. It was considered one of the most beautiful houses of its kind in the country.

Its old Spanish architectural design has been preserved through the years and protected from renovations.

With an 800-sqm floor area, the two-story structure has four big bedrooms, two living rooms, a dining hall, a kitchen, a terrace and a basement.

The stairs, floors, ceiling and windows are wooden. Capiz shells in the windows filter the glare of tropical sunlight.

Bahay na Bato

Though seemingly bare, the house has some old furniture, photographs and some of Manalang-Gloria's books.

In the mid-1900s, the house became a trading center of Smith, Bell and Co., an American-owned merchandise firm which had a branch in Tabaco.

Described as a "pragmatic businesswoman" in a literary biography written by Edna Zapanta Manlapaz, Manalang-Gloria bought the house in 1965 for P50,000 from an American agent of Smith, Bell and Co., who was clueless of its real estate value.

Manlapaz said the poet felt no compunction for having "taken advantage," as it were, of the agent's ignorance because, she maintained, it was his business to know what he was selling.

Legazpi City museum curator Erlinda Belleza said the "*bahay na bato,*" or the stone-and-wood houses of the 19th century, is a product of native and Spanish parentage. In the book "Igkas-Arte: The Philippine Arts During the Spanish Period," the *bahay na bato* features a sala (living room) flanked by bedrooms with wide doors and bounded, sometimes on two sides, by the "*volada*" or an airy gallery.

Space flows from one room to another. When all doors to the rooms are opened, the house becomes one vast space. It has an elaborate system of openings and shutters—the windows wide and high, sometimes extending the whole length or width of a room, the book said.

Elemelita Almosara, NHI deputy executive director, said the agency put up the historical markers in front of the house after a team of heritage architects surveyed and analyzed its features.

Tourist attraction

"Based on an analysis of the NHI, the Bahay-Kalakal of Smith, Bell and Co. is really a remarkable and classic *bahay na bato*, the oldest in the city of Tabaco," Almosara said.

Tourism regional director Maria Ong-Ravanilla said the place would be included in Bicol's tourism packages. More than the grandeur of a heritage site, what makes it significant is the stories behind them, she said.

The site would be of great help in showcasing the rest of the historic city, Mayor Krisel Lagman-Luistro said. "We want to give our tourists good memories of how we once lived and how simple life was before."

According to Manlapaz, Manalang-Gloria bought the house only for investment purposes. Although she found it to be very beautiful, she never considered moving into it. "I don't like living in an expensive house," she was quoted by the biographer as saying.

Manalang-Gloria's clan today values the old house in a much different way.

While the matriarch had no room for sentimentality, her only daughter and heiress, Angelina Gloria-Ong, lives a less complicated life as a housewife.

Poet's clan

"It was only during the last few months of my mother's life when she lived in the house she had bought. It was where she died in August 1995," Gloria-Ong, 65, said.

"People would think my mother was romantic because she was a poet. But she was more of a businesswoman—strict and very conservative," she said.

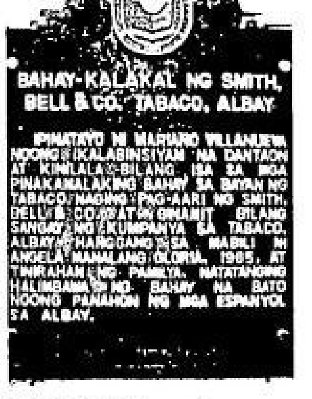
She said she felt proud and honored for the recognition given by the NHI to the ancestral house and her mother.

Gloria-Ong said she started to live in the house only in February 1995. Now, only the sixth of her eight children—Michael, 28—also lives there. The rest, except the youngest, have their own families.

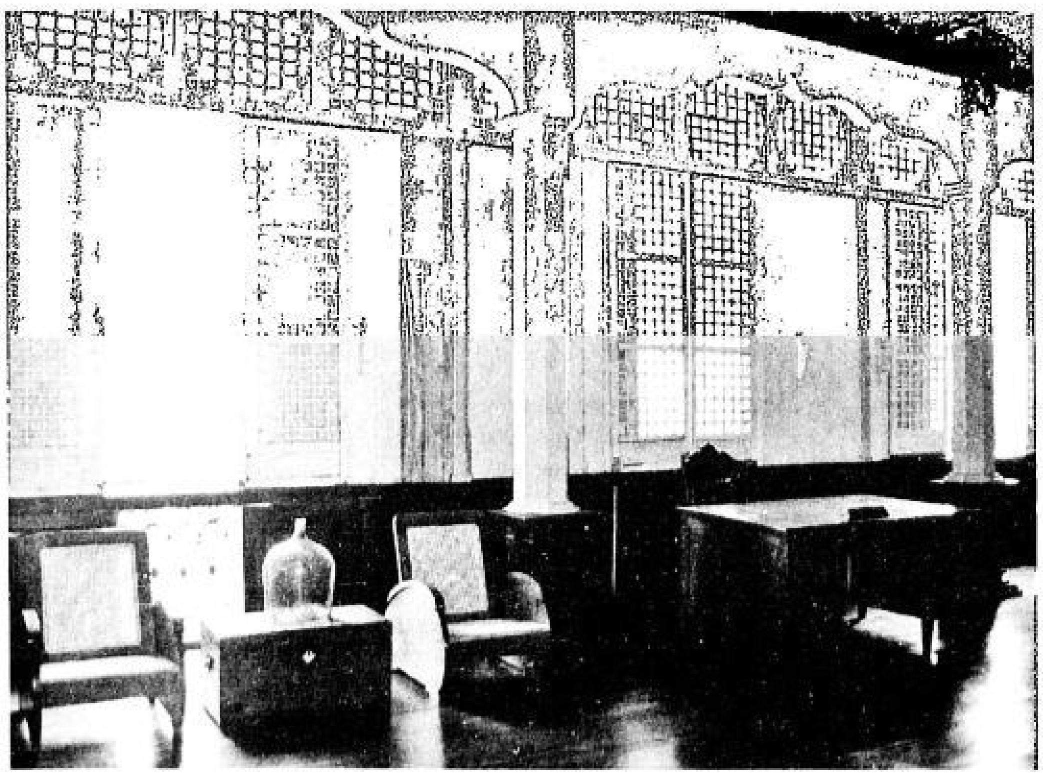
Michael said his nephews and nieces still frequented the place, which is near their school. The clan also holds special family occasions in the house.

"After the markers were placed, passers-by would come near and read them. Nobody gave this much attention to our house before. Now the people begin to appreciate it," Michael said.

Gloria-Ong said the family was willing to open some parts of their house to the public and tourists someday.


BAHAY-KALAKAL NG SMITH, BELL & CO. TABACO, ALBAY
IPINATAYO NI MARIANO VILLANUEVA NOONG IKALABINSIYAM NA DANTAON AT KINILALANG ISA SA MGA PINAKAMALAKING BAHAY SA BAYAN NG TABACO. NAGING PAG-AARI NG SMITH, BELL & CO. AT GINAMIT BILANG SANGAY NG KUMPANYA SA TABACO, ALBAY HANGGANG SA MABILI NI ANGELA MANALANG GLORIA, 1965, AT TINIRAHAN NG PAMILYA. NATATANGING HALIMBAWA NG BAHAY NA BATO NOONG PANAHON NG MGA ESPANYOL SA ALBAY.

INSTALLED marker at the ancestral home of renowned Filipino poet Angela Manalang-Gloria.



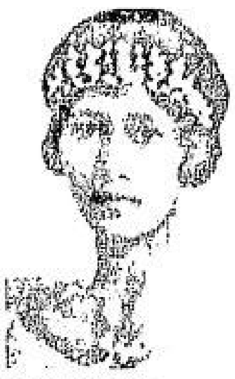
SOME of the old furniture pieces inside the house.

Poet, pianist and painter

ANGELA CARIDAD MANALANG, born on Aug. 2, 1907, in Guagua, Pampanga, has been considered the "matriarch of Filipino women poets" in English.

Her father, Felipe Dizon Manalang (1883-1955), came from a poor family descending from Chinese mestizos.

Manalang was the first Filipino poet to write and publish a collection of poems in English in her book, "Poems," in 1940. She was also a pianist and painter.



RENOWNED Filipino poet Angela Manalang-Gloria.

She became editor of the Philippines Herald magazine in 1929, the same year she married Celedonio Gloria.

She earned a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, summa cum laude, at the University of the Philippines in 1929.

Manalang-Gloria composed "Revolt from Hymen," a poem against marital rape which caused an all-male jury to deny her winning the Philippine Commonwealth Literary Awards in 1940.

The poem follows:

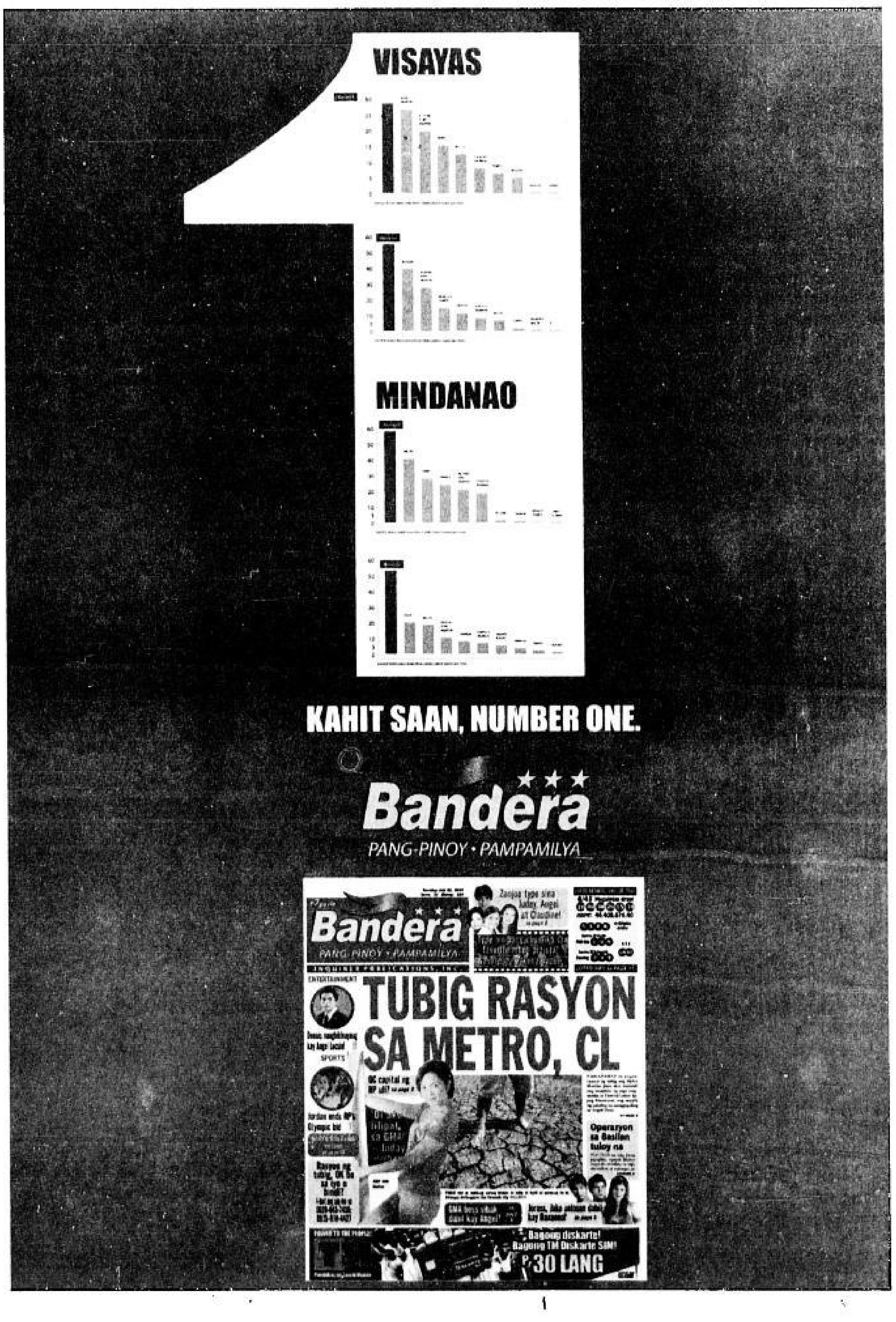
Revolt From Hymen**
(1940)

O to be free at last, to sleep at last
As infants sleep within the womb of rest!

To stir and stirring find no blackness vast
With passion weighted down upon the breast,

To turn the face this way and that and feel
No kisses festering on it like sores,

To be alone at last, broken the seal
That marks the flesh no better than a whore's!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US Senate terms on aid dismay RP Chief Justice

From page A1

Philippines. But we have to be doing all these actions without prodding from any foreign government," he said.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo announced on Monday that the US Senate had approved an increase in military aid to the Philippines from $11 million to $30 million.

But Romulo said the release of an additional $2 million would depend on the Philippine government's implementation of recommendations on cases of extrajudicial killings and other violations of human rights.

In Manila, Renato Reyes Jr., secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), yesterday said other big foreign donors such as the European Union, Japan, Canada and Australia should also examine their assistance to the Philippines.

"We are telling the nations of the world that their aid to the Philippines is tainted with the blood of more than 800 dead and almost 200 abducted persons. We call on these nations to review their military and counterterror aid to the Philippines in the light of these indisputable realities," Reyes said.

According to Reyes, there is "a link between increasing aid to the Philippines and increasing human rights violations."

"We hope the big donor-countries will follow the example set by the US Senate and tie their aid to the Philippines to the Arroyo administration's human rights record," he said.

International dimension

Chief Justice Puno said the Philippine government had been addressing the issue of human rights, and that the steps taken included the adoption of the writ of amparo. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

"The writ of amparo has gained not only a life of its own but also a life with international dimension," he said.

Puno, who spearheaded the unprecedented human rights summit early this year, said he was hopeful that the adoption of the writ would help end "the unabated killings and disappearances in the country."

"The writ of amparo is not a magic solution. These problems will not vanish overnight. But at least we have something to hope for," he said, adding that he was also anticipating how the writ would work for missing activists, including University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan.

The mothers of the two UP students, two farmer-brothers, a union leader, and—the latest case, filed yesterday—an activist purportedly being hunted by the military have sought protection from the Supreme Court under the writ of amparo.

Puno said the first three cases had been remanded to the Court of Appeals. "The reason for this is the Court of Appeals is a trier of facts, while the Supreme Court is not. All three cases have been given to the [appellate court], and I assume that the hearings of these cases have started," he said.

Counterterror aid

Bayan's Reyes said the European Union and Australia had been providing counterterror aid to the Philippines for a wide range of military and police activities.

"There is legitimate concern that this aid is also used for rights abuses—for example, in the surveillance of activists targeted for execution or abduction," he said.

Reyes said Bayan would mobilize its allied and affiliated organizations around the world to "undertake actions" to pressure various governments to review, cut or withdraw aid to the Philippines.

He also said that despite claims by US and Philippine officials that the conditions for the additional $2 million in military aid were not yet final and still subject to concurrence by the US House of Representatives, "a political statement has already been made."

"It would be politically untenable for the US House to withdraw these conditions. Then it would really appear that they are tolerating and abetting human rights abuses in the Philippines. Do the politicians want that kind of liability, considering it is election season now in the United States?" Reyes said.

Fully aware

In Baguio City, Joan Carling, the national coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Watch (IPHRW), said the US state department and the US Senate's human rights committee were fully aware of the rights situation in the Philippines and were seriously monitoring every case.

"I was amazed because the state department knows everything, even the cases of human rights violations against [our] indigenous peoples," Carling said.

The IPHRW was among the organizations that lobbied American legislators to stop US military aid to the Philippines because of its human rights record and the spate of extrajudicial killings.

Carling said her group's meetings last year with US legislators and state department officials had provided a window for the US Senate to favor its appeal.

She said a US state department official whom she met last month in Manila told her that the US Senate had set conditions on the grant of military aid to the country.

"We knew the decision was coming, and it is a welcome development. Because they have monitored that the cases of killings have decreased, they wanted to see prosecution and concrete measures to stop the killings," she said.

Citing IPHRW records, Carling said at least 120 indigenous peoples had been killed since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed power in 2001.

This number was included in the more than 800 victims of extrajudicial killings reported by the human rights group Karapatan from January 2001 to January 2007.

Philip Alston, the United Nations' special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings, visited Baguio in February to look into the killings and abuse of indigenous peoples and activists.

He described the rights violations as "tragic." *With reports from Jerome Aning in Manila; Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Military presents report but lawyer says it's 'incomplete'

From page A1

DINUKOT
DINUKOT

LOLITA Robiños petitions the Supreme Court to issue a writ of amparo to stop the military from harming her family and allow them to search for her missing son in military camps. REM ZAMORA

cle impounded at the camp of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion.

The number on the plates, TAB-194, is said to be similar to that seen on the vehicle used by Burgos' abductors.

According to eyewitnesses, Burgos, a son of the late press freedom fighter Jose Burgos, was forcibly taken from a shopping mall in Quezon City on April 28. He has not been seen since.

The report submitted by Abadilla includes his recommendation that three officers be slapped with administrative sanctions for their failure to prevent the loss of things in their custody.

Abadilla said the report was the summary of the results of his investigation, and that the soldiers' affidavits could be given to the court only with the permission of his superiors.

Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Tang said the report dealt only with the loss of the license plates and was thus irrelevant to the case at bar—a petition for habeas corpus filed by Burgos' mother Edita.

Tang also opposed the proposed subpoena for the affidavits.

The members of the court's 7th Division said they would read the report before deciding on their course of action, and on whether the report was relevant to the petition.

Lacking documents

Pacifico Agabin, a lawyer of the Burgos family, told reporters that the report submitted by the Provost Marshal General did not contain all the documents he wanted to see.

"It was incomplete, obviously ... It did not contain the other tabs, which include the affidavits of the investigated personnel," he said after the hearing.

During the hearing, Agabin said he wanted to read the soldiers' affidavits because these might contain the basis for the line in the report that read: "Per evaluation of the evidence gathered, we cannot pinpoint with accuracy if any military personnel are involved in the abduction."

He said the summary of the report focused only on the loss of the license plates.

"There might be portions of the original that dealt with the abduction of Mr. Burgos," he said.

But Tang said Agabin's remarks were "casting impropriety" on the submitted report, which, she stressed, had nothing to do with Burgos' disappearance.

She added that the report contained "the gist of the affidavits of these officers and men [of the 56th IB]."

Justice Enrico Lanzanas asked Abadilla if he could not release the affidavits given that these were part of the report that Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, the Armed Forces chief of staff, had already declassified.

For court's eyes only

In response, Abadilla said he needed permission to submit the affidavits because the report that he had submitted was the only declassified portion.

He said the report was declassified only for the court's consumption.

Abadilla added that his report dealt only with the loss of the license plates, and that he had substantially complied with the court's subpoena.

But Agabin pointed out that in the report, one of the statements listed under the heading "matters investigated" was "to determine the veracity of reports published in the local paper, Philippine Daily Inquirer, dated May 8, 2007, regarding the alleged abduction of Mr. Jonas Joseph Burgos using maroon Toyota vehicle bearing plate number TAB-194 last April 28, 2007, at Ever Gotesco mall in Quezon City which was traced to the ... 56th IB."

Ricardo Fernandez, another lawyer of the Burgos family, said he and Agabin wanted to read the affidavits in order to have a thorough understanding of the report.

Media reports

Abadilla also told the court of his concern that the media would take his statements out of context.

But Justice Remedios Salazar-Fernando assured him that the media reports on the matter would not sway the court.

The Burgos family had subpoenaed the Provost Marshal General's report late in July, shortly after the court began hearings on Edita Burgos' petition for habeas corpus.

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) sought to quash the subpoena on Abadilla's behalf, saying the report was confidential.

The court denied the motion, and the OSG elevated the issue to the Supreme Court. But before the latter could rule, Esperon declassified the report and allowed it to be submitted to the appellate court.

Writ of amparo

In a related development, the family of an activist allegedly being hunted by the military asked the Supreme Court yesterday to issue the writ of amparo for her, her missing brother and another missing man.

Leny Robiños and her mother Lolita Robiños asked the high court to stop the military from harming them and to allow an inspection of certain military detachments and safe houses, including the house used by retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. at the Clark Air Base.

They also asked that the military produce documents and reports concerning Leny, her missing brother Romulos, and one Ryan Supan, and pay the petitioners P500,000 each in damages for violation of their rights and security.

Named respondents in the petition were President Macapagal-Arroyo, General Esperon, Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon, Lt. Col. Edison Caga, Lt. Eric Bulosan, the 69th IB based in Mexico, Pampanga, the Army's 7th Division, Senior Supt. George Gaddi (the police chief of Angeles City in Pampanga), and the police precinct with jurisdiction over Barangay Tabon in Angeles.

No arrest warrant

Leny is an organizer of the Aguman Da Reng Maglalautang Capampangan, the Pampanga chapter of the militant peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

In their petition, she and her mother said her brother Romulos was forcibly taken on Nov. 17, 2006, by members of the 69th IB during a raid of their house in Tabon.

They said the soldiers were searching for Leny but, failing to find her, took Romulos as "ransom" for her to surrender. The soldiers also allegedly took Leny's mobile phone.

"There was no ... warrant of arrest or any legal ground for Leny Robiños to answer or to yield, and the only reason she was made to yield was her activities as an organizer of a legal organization," they said.

This was how the petitioners recounted the turn of events:

Leny was tailed by four men in a green pickup truck and two others on a motorcycle when she made a trip to SM in Clark on Nov. 7, 2006.

The pickup truck proceeded to the Robiños house, but Leny was tailed up to the market of San Nicolas in Angeles.

On the same day, the house was raided by members of the 69th IB. They left when they failed to find Leny.

The next day, the soldiers set up a detachment 70 meters from the house.

On Nov. 17, the soldiers again raided the house, still in search of Leny, but took Romulos instead.

Protection

The writ of amparo was specifically adopted by the Supreme Court in response to the extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances of journalists and leftist activists.

It denies authorities the defense of denial, requires them to take decisive action, and demands accountability from them.

Under the writ, the families of victims of extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances, or those under threat, may seek from any court a temporary protection order.

US envoy teaches Baguio kids eco-warfare

From page A1

Kenney read out passages of the "Eco-Defenders Versus Global Warming," published by the Usaid, as part of a campaign to raise awareness about global warming and to express how people can engage the threat of greenhouse gases.

The book tells the story of three colorful superhero children who foil the plans of polluting villains. It was derived from a 60-second commercial to be aired in SM theaters, which offers tips to children on how to save electricity, reduce, reuse, recycle and save water, and reminds them that their "little acts help save Planet Earth."

'Bright ideas'

The 30 elementary students in Kenney's audience did not need much persuading, though.

After the reading session, the ambassador spent 15 minutes interacting with the students, who offered their own "bright ideas" about staving off global warming.

A 10-year-old pupil said she had not realized one could mount a war against ecological destruction, until increasing oil prices became headline news recently. So her bright idea involves controlling their household's electricity consumption.

Both President Macapagal-Arroyo and Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes have directed government offices to mount an energy-saving program in anticipation of increasing oil prices this Christmas season.

Another student told Kenney that he would ask his parents to fix the water pipes in their house to stop the leaks they had endured for years.

Gore documentary

Prodded by reporters, a student said: "Yes, we know [who] Al Gore is. [I] watched 'Inconvenient Truth' with my mama."

Gore, a former US vice president, won a Nobel Peace Prize this year for drawing attention to the global warming threat through a documentary that also won an Oscar award.

On behalf of the United States, Gore signed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, a United Nations treaty that compels countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

US legislators during the term of President Bill Clinton and the administration of President George W. Bush shelved the protocol because of a counter argument that mandatory restrictions imposed by the UN would affect the American economy.

US policy

When asked if Gore's popularity has changed Washington's attitude toward the world greenhouse effect, Kenney said the US government was still inclined to develop clean energy instead.

"But today's Americans—not just the American government—are starting to look deeply into [the matter of global warming]," she said.

Also on Wednesday, Kenney helped launch a new environmental advocacy network formed by the city's top universities, which would support the "clean cities" initiative. Baguio is piloting the USAID's Clean Cities program, which lobbies Asian cities to use alternative fuel sources in their respective mass transport systems.

Most of the city's universities have joined the Energy and Clean Air Network of the Academe (Ecademe) to develop new technology and resources that help the movement for sustainable energy, said Jesus Benjamin Salvosa, chair of the University of the Cordilleras, who hosted the event.

Academic community

"Clean air and the environment are not the most exciting topics, especially for the general public. Most people will engage in discussions on clean air and the environment, only when they cannot avoid it [because] the public consciousness in our country is crowded with more invasive topics like politics [and] show business," he said.

Salvosa told Kenney that the Baguio academic community had decided to join hands because "it has become ever so clear in a global arena, that clean air and the environment is the issue that holds the key to mankind's survival in our very own planet."

Kenney said that "keeping the scent of pine in Baguio" was a laudable goal because the effort amounted to "preserving one of the natural treasures of this country."

Other celebrities, like Christine Bersola, Manilyn Reynes, Sam Concepcion, Cheska Ortega, University of the Philippines summa cum laude graduate Mikaela Irene Fudolig, Olsen Racela, Miss Earth-Philippines 2007 Jean Harn and Little Earth Angel winner Denisse Mikaela Abuan, have read stories to children at the INQUIRER's Makati offices.

Late SPORTS

More on World Pool Championship and other Sports stories on A25 to 28

BRUNSWI
poolstars.com

DE LUNA: Brash talker, big-time player AUGUST DELA CRUZ

De Luna ousts Corteza; Django, Gomez advance

By Musong R. Castillo

JEFF DE LUNA HAS THIS BRASHNESS IN his talk that he backed with a big game last night.

While most Filipinos remained cautious of their chances, De Luna vowed to overpower the field after showing compatriot Lee Van Corteza the door, 10-7, to advance to the Last 32 of the $400,000 World Pool Championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

"*Kakatayin ko ang lahat ng makakatapat ko* (I will butcher every opponent that I face in this tournament)," De Luna told reporters minutes after disposing of Corteza, unmindful that he could be going up against Efren "Bata" Reyes in the next round.

A few moments later, and even after a win far more impressive—10-1 over the Spaniard David Alcaide—Francisco "Django" Bustamante said he simply wants the title.

Robert Gomez annihilated Dutch Alex Lely, 10-1 to also advance to the next round.

"I don't mind whoever it is I face, because that's the draw," Bustamante said in Filipino. "I just hope that it is not Efren.

"I just want to win this tournament so bad that it would be OK if I don't win a tournament again," Bustamante, the 2001 runner-up, added.

The 24-year-old De Luna actually had an ax to grind against Corteza, who replaced him in the Southeast Asian Games team that will play in Thailand next month.

"*Sinabi nya na swerte lang daw ako, kung gusto niya money game kami kahit ngayon na* (He told people

that I was just lucky. If he wants we can play a money game now)," De Luna told reporters.

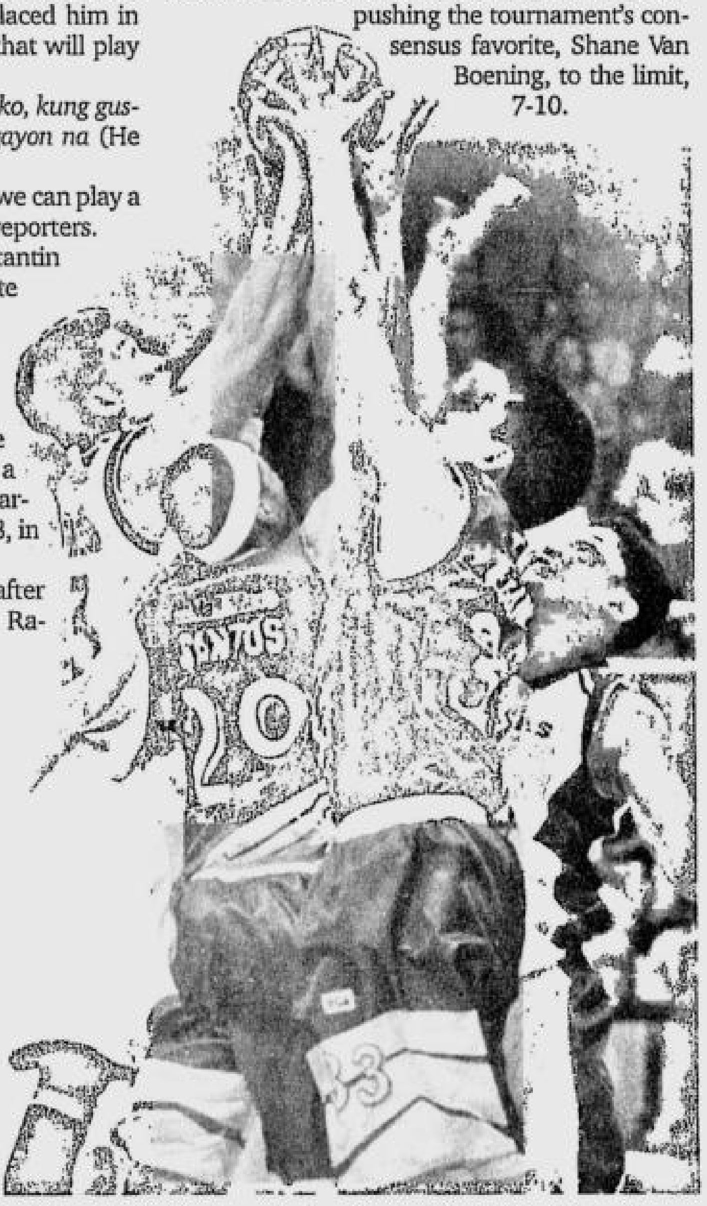
Reyes was due to play Konstantin Stepanov of Russia in a very late match at the television table.

Defending champion Ronnie Alcano has also yet to see action against Englishman Daryl Peach.

The fiery Earl Strickland of the United States was sent packing by a pocket-sized Vietnamese, 22-year-old, five-foot Luong Chi Dung, 10-8, in one of the biggest upsets thus far.

Marlon Manalo got the door after winning just one rack opposite Radoslav Babica of Poland and Ramil Gallego was also ousted later after taking a 5-10 beating at the hands of Taiwan's Kuo Po-cheng.

Antonio Gabica became the fifth Filipino to head for the showers for the day, but not after pushing the tournament's consensus favorite, Shane Van Boening, to the limit, 7-10.



IT'S A wild battle for the loose ball as Sta. Lucia's Nelbert Omolon (left) and Dennis Daa (right) battle Air21's Arwind Santos (second from left) and Ranidel de Ocampo. RYAN LIM

Realtors rout Express; Pals triumph

GAMES TOMORROW (Ynares Center, Antipolo City)
4:35 p.m.—Magnolia vs. Alaska
7:20 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs. Purefoods

FIL-AM ROOKIE SENSATION RYAN REYES took over from top gun Kelly Williams as Sta. Lucia sent Air21 to its worst loss in franchise history, 115-80, last night in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Astrodome in Pasay City.

The Realtors took their second win in five outings after only two quarters as Reyes, the third overall rookie pick this season who rested his ailing right heel in a loss to Red Bull Friday, poured all his 14 points in 12 minutes in the first half, which Sta. Lucia took at 56-36.

"I didn't expect him (Reyes) to play like this since he's just recovering from an injury," said Sta. Lucia coach Boyet Fernandez. "I'm glad he did, he's due for this kind of performance."

In the second game, Talk 'N Text edged Red Bull in overtime, 115-111, to grab second place behind idle and unbeaten Purefoods with a 4-2 record.

Asi Taulava missed two free throws with 15 seconds left in regulation to pave the way for the extension at 100-all before the Phone Pals finally pinned a second loss in five games on the Bulls.

Air21's loss was the biggest by any team since Welcoat fell to then San Miguel (now Magnolia), 79-119, last May 23.

The scores:

First Game

STA. LUCIA 115—Gonzales 17, Yeo 16, Reyes 14, Mendoza 14, Aquino 13, Omolon 9, Miranda 8, Espino 8, Daa 5, Williams 5, Butel 4, Mamaclay 2.

AIR21 80—Arboleda 16, Canaleta 15, Se 10, Chia 8, Cruz 6, Intal 5, Santos 5, Kramer 4, de Ocampo 4, Sotto 4, Baluyot 3, Dimaunahan 0.

Quarters: 26-18, 56-36, 82-57, 115-80

Second Game

TALK N' TEXT 115—Washington 20, de Ocampo 18, Cardona 17, Taulava 16, Allado 13, Billones 9, Ritualo 9, Alapag 7, Carey 6, Aljamal 0, Belano 0

RED BULL 111—Bagulo 30, Najorda 20, hrabak 12, Cruz 11, Pennisi 11, Bugia 10, Sharma 5, Adriano 5, Andaya 4, Robinson 3, Membrere 0, Ybanez 0

Quarters: 31-22; 53-45; 81-75; 100-all (OT) 115-111

Oil prices near $98/barrel as dollar falls to new lows

From page A1

record—the fall of the US dollar to new lows against major currencies and expectations of declining US supplies amid news of an attack on a Yemeni oil pipeline.

"It's a crazy market. People just want to get more money and are betting on the upside," said Tetsu Emori, an analyst with Astmax in Tokyo.

Light, sweet crude for December delivery added $1.28 to $97.98 a barrel by late afternoon, after rising as high as $98.17 a barrel—an all-time futures trading record—in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The contract hit a high of $97.10 on Tuesday before closing at $96.70 a barrel, a record settlement 66 percent higher than the close on the first trading day of the year. Wednesday's trading record is 96.7 percent higher than this year's trading low of $49.90.

"The oil market sentiment remains bullish ... there is an overall upward trend toward the $100 level," said Victor Shum, energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "Meanwhile, we can expect extreme volatility where on the one hand some traders will take profit while others will buy back positions."

Record lows for dollar

The dollar plumbed record lows against the euro and set a 26-year low against the pound on Wednesday, pushing oil to all-time peaks.

The US currency had been under pressure in recent sessions as expectations grew the Federal Reserve would cut interest rates again to limit damage from the housing market's downturn that, in turn, would further erode the yield the dollar offers.

Rubbing salt into the dollar's wounds, a senior Chinese political figure said China should balance its currency reserves—the world's largest—so that stronger currencies, such as the euro, would offset the further weakening of the dollar.

The dollar has fallen beyond $1.47 per euro, according to Reuters data, bringing its losses this year to around 10 percent. The US currency set all-time lows against a basket of six major currencies, while the sterling set a new 26-year high above $2.10.

Diversification comments from Cheng Siwei, vice chair of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, were followed by remarks from Xu Jian, a Chinese central bank official, who said the dollar was losing its status as a global currency.

A weakening of the US currency makes it cheaper to buy oil, which is priced in dollars. Analysts say surging oil prices are in turn weighing on the dollar, creating a vicious cycle for the US currency.

"Rampant energy prices serve to place even greater sums into the hands of oil exporters who continue to recycle receipts out of dollars and into other liquid forex such as euro and sterling," ING said in a note to clients.

Supply concerns

Traders also remained worried about whether supplies would be adequate to meet demand for heating fuel in the approaching Northern Hemisphere winter. News of an attack Monday on an oil pipeline in Yemen added to those concerns.

Figures to be released later Wednesday by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) are expected to show crude supplies dropped last week. Analysts surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires predict, on average, that crude oil inventories fell by 1.6 million barrels.

"The price rise is really driven by expectations of drawdowns in crude oil and distillate stocks inventories in the US inventory report," Shum said. "Some cold weather reports out of the US and Europe serve as a reminder that winter is coming and that there are still supply concerns."

Oil inventories likely fell due to a suspension of output at Mexico's state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, a major crude exporter to the United States, which temporarily shut its ports last week due to severe weather.

On Tuesday, the EIA predicted oil consumption would rise in the fourth quarter and next year despite higher prices and that inventories would fall.

"Strong demand, limited surplus capacity, falling inventories and geopolitical concerns continue to weigh on the market," the EIA said in its monthly Short-Term Energy Outlook.

According to the EIA, global oil markets "will likely remain stretched" because world oil demand has grown much faster than oil supply outside of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

That has put pressure on Opec and inventories to bridge the gap, adding geopolitical risks, tight inventories in rich countries and worldwide refining bottlenecks were set to keep crude oil prices high and volatile. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Girl, 11, loses hope for poor family, hangs herself

From page A1

der her pillow along with her diary.

The letter read in part: "Good afternoon Ate Vicky (Morales, the show's host). I am Mariannet L. Amper, 11 years old. I am in the sixth grade. I am studying at the Ma-a Central Elementary School. I wrote to you because I wish to have new shoes and bag and jobs for my mom and dad.

"It's because my dad is often jobless and my mom does extra work doing laundry."

She never got to send the letter.

At about 3 p.m. of Nov. 2, she tied a nylon rope around her neck and hanged herself at their home at the back of the Yniquez Subdivision in Ma-a District.

The night before, Mariannet, a Grade 6 pupil, approached her father, Isabelo, pleading for P100 for a school project that she needed to submit on Nov. 5.

But Isabelo, 49, who has not had a job as a construction worker for several months already, couldn't give the money.

Isabelo told his daughter to ask her mother, Magdalena, if she had the amount. But he said there may be hope as he was expecting a job at a chapel under construction in downtown.

Although work has not started, Isabelo said, he borrowed P1,000 as "cash advance" from his prospective employer on the morning of Nov. 2.

Isabelo went home that day to realize the money was no longer needed because his daughter lay dead. "I suspect that she did it because of our situation," he said.

Mariannet's mother works part-time repacking noodles in a factory near home, earning at least P50 a day. She also does laundry, receiving P100 to P150 a day.

In contrast, Isabelo is in and out of work. "I'm already old. No one would want to hire me," he said.

Going through Mariannet's things, her parents saw her school "talaarawan," or diary.

In an entry dated Oct. 5, Mariannet wrote: "*Parang isang buwan na kaming* absent. *Hindi na kasi namin binibilang ang* absent *ko. Hindi ko namalayan na malapit na pala ang Pasko* (It seemed as if we were absent from school for a month now. We stopped counting how many absences I had. Christmas is getting near, I didn't notice it)."

Isabelo said that in the first week of October, Mariannet skipped school as they did not have money for "baon."

"We did not have any money and I didn't want Mariannet and her younger brother (Reynald) to walk to school," he said in Bisaya.

Isabelo said Mariannet was absent for three days. "For her, three days was like one month," he said.

On Oct. 14, Mariannet wrote in her diary: "*Hindi kami nakapagsimba dahil wala kaming pamasahe at nilalagnat pa ang aking tatay kaya naglaba na lang kami ng aking nanay* (We weren't able to go to church because we didn't have money for transportation and my father had a fever so my mother and I just washed clothes)."

The parents also discovered a letter Mariannet wrote for "Wish Ko Lang."

"*Gusto ko na makatapos ako sa pag-aaral at gustong-gusto ko na makabili ng bagong* bike (I want to finish studying and I really want to buy a new bike)," her unsent letter read.

"We never knew that our daughter had dreams for us," Isabelo said.

No electricity, running water

The Ampers live in a house that has no electricity or running water.

Of seven siblings, only Mariannet and Reynald are left with their parents as their other siblings have families of their own.

Even with only two children left to feed, the Ampers are still having a tough time making ends meet.

A neighbor said even in this "mostly poor" neighborhood, the Ampers were being discriminated against. "Other kids don't want to play with the Amper children because they are untidy," the neighbor said.

Mariannet's story drove people, who heard it on radio, to tears.

One of them, Ali Sotto, cried as she and fellow host Arnold Clavio reported the story in their dzBB program. "It's more painful to listen to this (Mariannet's death) than to stories of bribery and money being thrown around in Malacañang," she said.

Clavio said the program staff tried to get a reaction from Palace officials who, at the time Mariannet's story was being reported on dzBB, were meeting at the Manila Hotel for an antipoverty workshop.

He was told by one official that Mariannet's case was "isolated."

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DID YOU KNOW

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. was created by Commonwealth Act No. 120 on Nov. 3, 1936 to nationalize the hydroelectric industry. Originally organized as a non-stock public corporation, Napocor was converted into a government-owned stock corporation in 1960 with the passage of Republic Act No. 2641. Napocor holds office on Quezon Avenue in Diliman, Quezon City.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Leviste defense witnesses take stand

Makati City court hears testimonies on slain aide's temper, character

By DJ Yap

THE CAMP OF FORMER BATANGAS Gov. Jose Antonio Leviste yesterday presented as a witness an American businessman who claimed to have seen the "pugnacious, aggressive and violent" side of Rafael de las Alas, Leviste's aide whom he shot dead in January.

As the presentation of the defense evidence continued, a Makati court heard the testimony of Randolph Chaffee who recalled two instances in which the victim purportedly showed his bad temper.

Judge Elmo Alameda of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 also heard the testimonies of De las Alas' driver, Salvador Capitin, who said De las Alas had acted oddly on the day he was killed, and that of employee Levie Panganiban.

Manuel Singson, Leviste's lawyer, said Chaffee's testimony would show De las Alas' violent tendencies and suggested that he was the "aggressor" in the fight that had led to Leviste shooting him on Jan. 12 at the LPL Tower in Makati City.

Chaffee, a tenant at LPL Towers who served as the consultant for a friend's Internet café business, said the first run-in he had with De las Alas occurred some time between September and October in 2004. He said De las Alas confronted him about the air-conditioning in his office, which he had installed on his own without getting the latter's permission.

As he was explaining, De las Alas "cut me off and yelled at me, telling me he's the boss at LPL Towers and everything goes through him," Chaffee said, adding that he was "shocked" at the outburst.

The second incident occurred in mid-2005. Chaffee said he was talking with another employee about a request, to reduce the size of his business sign.

He said the discussion went well, and he had agreed to take down the sign and replace it with a smaller one. But De las Alas allegedly interrupted the discussion and began yelling at him, and even tried "swinging" at him with a fist.

"He made contact with my shoulder but I was able to step back. He was very angry, very furious," Chaffee said. "I just backed out. I was just scared. I didn't want to put my back to him."

Capitin, on the other hand, testified about the "unusual things" De las Alas did before he was killed.

He said that as he was driving De las Alas home with his co-workers on Jan. 11, the victim talked to a female co-worker

LEVISTE/ A22

Nida kin fear truth now more out of reach

By Kristine L. Alave

SIX YEARS AFTER THE BRUTAL MURDER of her mother, actress Nida Blanca, Kaye Torres yesterday urged anyone who has information regarding her death to come forward and reveal the truth.

Given the slow pace of the investigation and the deepening mystery of her mother's death, Torres said a confession or at least a reliable lead from someone who knows what happened to Blanca on Nov. 7, 2001, would be a blessing.

Reunion

Torres and many of Blanca's relatives and friends from show business yesterday gathered at the actress' grave at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City to remember her life.

With the recent death of Rod Strunk, Blanca's husband and the police's prime suspect, Torres expressed fears that the truth behind her mother's murder has become more out of reach.

Wait and see

"It's still a dark time for us. We don't know what lies ahead. It's still a wait-and-see situation. I wish somebody would come forward with the truth," she added.

Actor Dolphy Quizon, who played Blanca's husband in the long-running television sitcom "John en Marsha," said the death of Strunk has contributed to the mystery of the actress' death.

He admitted that it had become more and more difficult for the truth to come out as the years go by. "Hopefully the truth will come out," he said.

And if the court will not get those responsible for his friend's death, the comedian added: "God will be the one to judge the culprit."

Dorothy Jones in real life, was found dead inside her Nissan Sentra parked at the Atlanta Centre building in Greenhills. The actress had been stabbed 13 times.

A suspect in the crime, Philip Medel, who was allegedly hired by Strunk to kill Blanca, is still in jail.

"NIDA BLANCA"
Z. ACUEZA

KAYE Torres, beside the grave of her mother, actress Nida Blanca, says she is still looking for answers to the mysteries surrounding her mother's death. RODEL ROTONI

Manila hotel has new owner

By Allison W. Lopez

THE MANILA CITY GOVERNMENT FINALLY pushed through yesterday with the sale of the Grand Boulevard Hotel on Roxas Boulevard which was placed on the auction block because its owner failed to settle unpaid real property taxes.

City legal officer Renato de la Cruz, chair of the auction committee, said private developer Pacific Wide Realty and Development Corp. won with a bid of P106.65 million.

De la Cruz said they chose to ignore a stay order issued by Judge Antonio Eugenio of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 24, saying it was invalid.

"The Court of Appeals already dismissed the petition for rehabilitation, and with it automatically comes the dissolution of the stay order issued by Judge Eugenio," De la Cruz explained. "The mayor is already impatient. We have already stopped the auction twice. We need the money badly for city projects."

The management of Grand Boulevard, meanwhile, has one year to redeem the property by paying monthly the sale amount, plus two percent interest, to Pacific. If it fails to do so, Pacific said the property may be converted into a condominium-hotel with the filing of a writ of possession.

4 face obstruction raps in Mendez case

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION yesterday filed obstruction of justice charges against a Muntinlupa City village official and three security guards for allegedly refusing to cooperate in the investigation of the death of suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez.

Charged in the Muntinlupa City Prosecutor's Office were Manny Samson, manager of the Pacific Malayan Village in Cupang, Muntinlupa City and security guards Ricardo Cordova, Ruel Arandilla and Cezar Porcadilla.

Lawyer Romulo Asis, chief of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division, said they filed the case after the four refused to let them serve subpoenas to Jose Andoni Santos, a University of the Philippines student who is said to be a member of the Sigma Rho fraternity. The NBI is investigating several Sigma Rho members, including Santos, for their possible involvement in hazing rites which could have led to the death of Mendez, a fraternity neophyte, on Aug. 27.

Based on information received by the NBI, Santos is a resident of the Pacific Malayan Village.

An NBI team tried three times to serve him with subpoenas but the security guards, apparently upon Samson's orders, repeatedly prevented the agents from entering the village.

The guards also refused to receive the subpoenas on Santos' behalf. At one time, the guards even told the NBI team that Santos and his family had already left for Spain.

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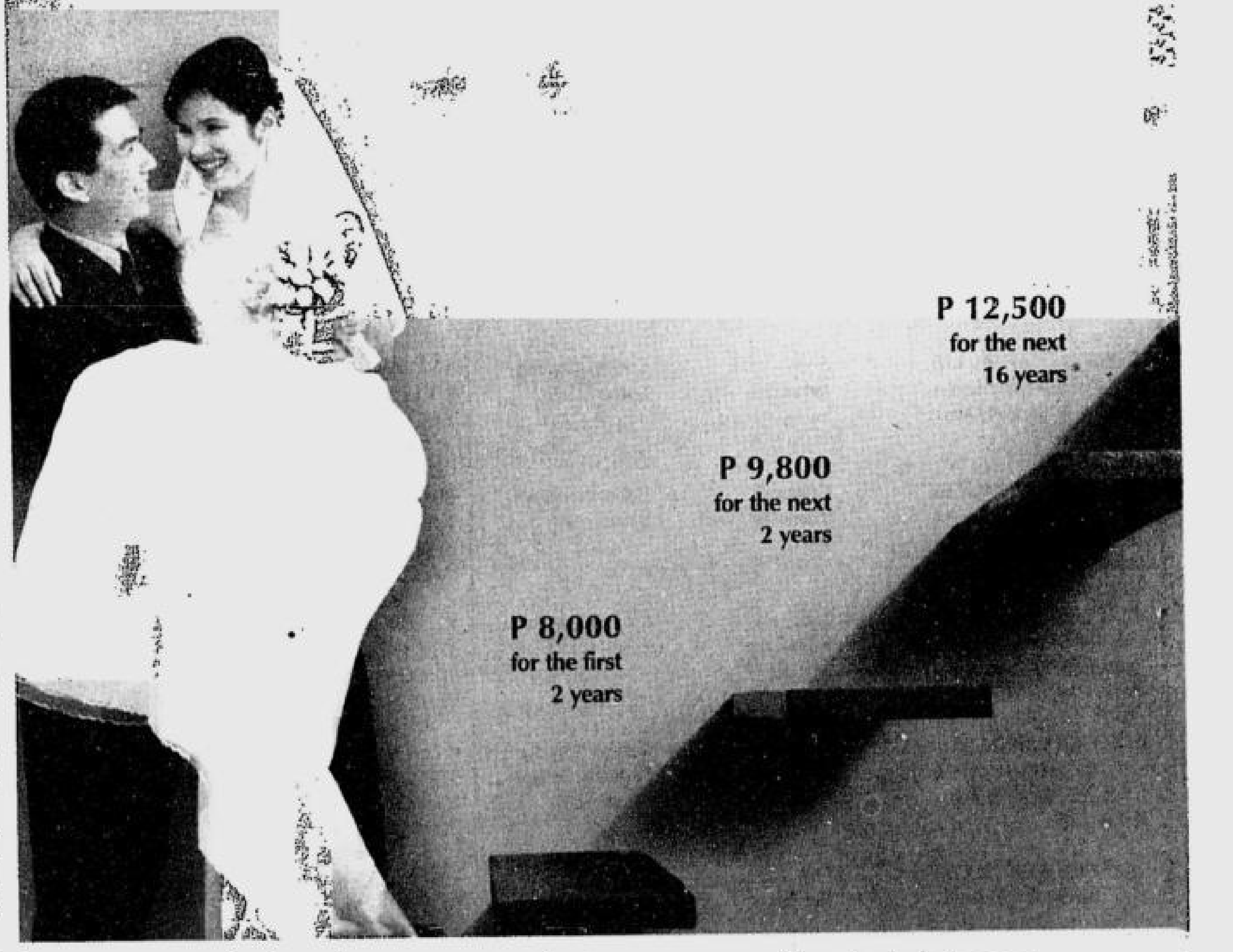

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
PHILJOY.COM TOURS AND CONSULTING CORP. U-105 Residencia 8888 Pearl Drive, Ortigas Ctr., San Antonio, Pasig City	Hyeun Ju Song (w/o Han) Korean	Travel Marketing Manager
GLOBAL DEVELOPING SEAFOOD EXPORT & IMPORT CORPORATION 72 Scarlet St., Moonwalk, Paranaque City	Seung Hwan Lee Korean	Operations Manager
D & T GLOBAL CORPORATION Unit 702 Richville Corporate Tower, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jang Won Kim Korean	Marketing Manager
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Anton Indonesian	Chinese-language Customer Service Officer
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Chen Yew Chu Malaysian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Kian Boon Chiew Singaporean	Chinese-language Sports Trader
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OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Aroonrat Niemsawan Thai	Chinese-language Customer Service Officer
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	My Ha Thai Vietnamese	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Kok Wai Lee Malaysian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Rudi Kam Indonesian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Richard Chin Han Poh Malaysian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Siang Kern Wong Malaysian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Tong Aik Koh Malaysian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Chee Choy Lau Malaysian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Leong Yong Aw Malaysian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Wee Chen Lee Malaysian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Shin Ying Cheng Malaysian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Sun Huat Tjoe Indonesian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Sun Chandra Fuadsam Indonesian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Chi Phong Luong Vietnamese	Chinese-language Sports Trader
FAIR MYSTIC CO. LTD. B-2 Madrigal Cpd., F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City	Peirong Weng Chinese	Advertising Manager
FAIR MYSTIC CO. LTD. B-2 Madrigal Cpd., F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City	Shuihong Cai Chinese	Production Manager
FAIR MYSTIC CO. LTD. B-2 Madrigal Cpd., F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City	Zaixing Zhang Chinese	Assistant Manager
ADVANCED WORLD SOLUTIONS, INC. 3/F Multinational Bancorporation Centre, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Nanju Zen Japanese	Vice President
ADVANCED WORLD SYSTEMS, INC. 5/F Citibank-Frabelle Building, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Muntinlupa City	Nanju Zen Japanese	Vice President
NOKIA SIEMENS NETWORKS PHILIPPINES, INC. 20/F Philamlife Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Jonathan Jakob Smids Dutch	Solution Sales Manager
VIVA MANILA CLUB - THEATER & KTV RESTAURANT, INC. 2332 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Katsuya Hayakawa Japanese	Chief Programmer
TELUS INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES, INC. 31/F Discovery Center, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Ji Hyun Park Korean	Customer Interaction Associate
YELLOW DRAGON TRADING 373-B F. Dulalia St., Barangay Lingunan, Valenzuela City	Ahmet Coskun Turkish	Sales Representative/ Coordinator
K.T.W. MINING & STEEL MILL CORP. 207 Ferrox Bel-Air, Polaris St. cor. Durban St., Makati City	Kwang Woo Lee Korean	President
MISYS INTERNATIONAL BANKING SYSTEMS INC. 10/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Makati City	Lee Edward Tanswell British	Senior Business Test Analyst
OFFSHORE LEGAL RESEARCH SERVICE 15-A Greenrich Mansion, Lourdes Street, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Takako Brilliant Guthrie Japanese	Assistant
GLOBAL MOBILETECH PHILIPPINES, INC. 178 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Mark Steven Thaler American	Marketing Specialist
OFT LENDING INC. Unit 20-A Wynsum Corporate Plaza, 22 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Choung Hun Jung Korean	Investment Analysis Team Manager
SOFT WHEEDLE TRADING LTD. CO. 101 Masangkay St., Binondo, Manila	Jiajing Yang Chinese	Supervisor
JUNNAN TRADING LTD. CO. 1939 J. Abad Santos St., Tondo, Manila	Qing Hu Chinese	Supervisor
ASIAN TECH. COMPUTER SALES CORPORATION 26 Hemady St., New Manila, Quezon City	Baochuan Cai Chinese	Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

for RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI - Nov. 8, 2007)

Solon to the rescue

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

DEPUTY SPEAKER MA. AMELITA "Girlie" Villarosa did a heroic act for President Gloria by shielding her from attacks arising out of the issue concerning the distribution of cash to congressmen and local officials in Malacañang.

Villarosa admitted the other day that she was the source of the largesse, weeks after the scandal broke out in media.

The Mindoro Occidental solon, whose husband former Gov. Jose Villarosa is serving time at the National Bilibid Prisons for multiple murders, said the money came from Kampi, the President's party.

But the deputy speaker hastened to add that the President was innocent about the cash distribution.

She's the third official to admit she was the source of the cash gifts. The others are two governors who said the money came from the governors' league.

Was Villarosa expecting a reward in return?

According to a source, she has been telling her friends and constituents who would care to listen that her convicted murderer of a husband might soon be pardoned.

Some NBP officials alleged that the congresswoman had been dropping the President's name whenever she reportedly requested extra privileges for her husband.

Villarosa allegedly claimed responsibility for the sacking of Bureau of Corrections Director Vicente Vinarao after he didn't extend the hospital stay of former Gov. Villarosa at the Makati Medical Center.

Villarosa, the NBP officials alleged, was just feigning illness.

My NBP sources said that Deputy Speaker Villarosa had requested that her husband be allowed to raise poultry inside the prisons' maximum-security compound. However, the request was reportedly not granted by the new corrections director, Ricardo Dapat.

Months before the last elections, the former governor, one of several prominent names now serving time, allegedly asked to buy the white blankets issued to prisoners to be made into T-shirts with the name Villarosa on them. Again, the request was turned down.

Deputy Speaker Villarosa, however, may have the last laugh because the President might just grant her husband pardon.

Leviste defense . . .

From page A21

about a fight he just had with Leviste.

The woman told De las Alas not to go to work the following day, as she, too, would be absent. De las Alas agreed, Capitin said.

But early the next morning, De las Alas called him and asked him to drive him to LPL Tower, he said. On the way, he observed that his boss seemed unusually quiet.

When they reached the building, De las Alas did not ask him to take his two bags, including a clutch bag with a .9 mm gun, to his office, as he customarily did, Instead, De las Alas took the gun himself, saying he "would not take long."

During cross examination by Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, however, Capitin admitted that he felt some resentment toward De las Alas for being "stingy," and that though he felt sad about his boss' death, he "did not cry."

Leviste told the INQUIRER the defense witnesses were showing a side of De las Alas that even he did not know about or expect.

Velasco, however, said the witnesses presented were mostly people beholden to Leviste as they remain his employees.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513464 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
Email: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Janitorial, Messengerial & Other Manpower Requirements of PEZA
(PEZA-HO-2007-10)

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2008 intends to apply the sum of **P7,131,962.93** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Janitorial & Other Manpower Services Requirements of PEZA**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders to provide 27 Janitors; 6 Clerks; 7 Messengers; 2 Building Maintenance; 1 Supervisor.

   Delivery of the GOODS is required for one (1) year. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Prospective bidders must have a minimum of five (5) years experience in providing manpower services and should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC.
5. In addition, bidders must have filed their latest annual income and business tax returns (VAT and/or Percentage Taxes covering six (6) months immediately prior to the submission of bids) via the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be inspected and purchased by interested Bidders from 08-16 November 2007, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos Only (P5,000.00) and submission of a certified copy of their Phil-GEPS Registration Certificate. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
7. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 20 November 2007, 2:00 P.M. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 04 December 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
9. Bid opening shall be on 04 December 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Bldg. Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
10. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
11. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
E-mail: **peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com**
Website: **www.peza.gov.ph**

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 8, 2007)

Top Pakistan judge calls for uprising

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN'S DEposed top judge urged people to "rise up" against President Pervez Musharraf's emergency rule on Tuesday, as the government cracked down on fresh protests amid growing international pressure.

Opposition leader and former premier Benazir Bhutto meanwhile arrived in Islamabad for talks with political allies, saying she had no plans to meet with the nuclear-armed nation's military ruler.

Sacked Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry called on his countrymen to save the constitution, prompting authorities to sever mobile phone coverage in parts of Islamabad as he addressed a meeting of lawyers by telephone.

"I want lawyers to spread my message to the people of Pakistan," he said to cheer for supporters before all lines went dead. "The time for sacrifice has come, to rise up for the supremacy of the constitution."

Chaudhry, one of nine judges sacked for refusing to endorse the emergency order and now under effective house arrest, said Musharraf's "junta" had cracked down because it was scared the verdict would go against him.

Musharraf brushed off calls from US President George W. Bush and other world leaders to end the state of emergency declared on Saturday, quit as Army chief and hold elections due in January.

But in a sign of growing international pressure, the Commonwealth said it had called an extraordinary meeting to discuss the state of emergency. These talks could in theory result in the country's suspension.

Musharraf, who seized power in a coup in 1999 and has since become a key US ally in the "war on terror," cited a meddling judiciary as one of the reasons for clamping down, along with spiralling Islamic militancy.

Pro-Taliban fighters took control of a northwestern town on Tuesday despite the emergency, flying flags from government buildings in the latest push by followers of a hardline cleric calling for Islamic law.

Pakistan's cabinet met later to discuss the timetable for elections but made no decisions, amid reports of a split in the government about whether to hold them on schedule in early 2008.

Information Minister Mohammad Ali Durrani said the timing of events depended on "legal issues" such as resolving a pending Supreme Court ruling on the legality of Musharraf's victory in an Oct. 6 presidential election.

In a second day of protests, police used batons and tear gas to break up a rally by 1,000 lawyers in the central city of Multan, witnesses said. Another 50 lawyers were detained in Lahore, according to witnesses. And in northwestern Peshawar, police arrested seven members of former premier Nawaz Sharif's party.

Police sources have said that around 1,500 opposition workers, lawyers and civil society members have been detained since Saturday.

Meanwhile, opposition leader and former Pakistan cricketing superstar Imran Khan said the US was complicit in Musharraf's declaration of a state of emergency in an e-mail from hiding that was published in Britain.

AFP

TALLEST BUDDHA
The 71-meter tall Leshan Buddha in China's city of Leshan in Sichuan province, will get a facelift to fix damage from weather and acid rain. The world's tallest ancient Buddha statue is "somewhat battered" with a blackened nose, and with moss and dark streaks coating its face and body. AFP

Burma rejects meeting with UN, Suu Kyi

RANGOON—BURMA'S (MYANMAR) junta has rejected a three-way meeting with UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari and detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and refuses to bow to external pressure, state media said on Wednesday.

The military government also rejected any foreign or UN "interference," Information Minister Brig. Gen. Kyaw Hsan told Gambari during a meeting on Tuesday.

Gambari proposed a meeting between himself, Aung San Suu Kyi and labor minister Aung Kyi whom the junta appointed last month to liaise with her.

But Kyaw Hsan said "currently the tripartite meeting will not be possible," according to the New Light of Myanmar newspaper.

It is Gambari's second mission to Burma to push for reforms since a bloody junta crackdown on pro-democracy protestors in late September.

Gambari's mission appeared unlikely to bear fruit as the junta accused the United Nations of bowing to US pressure to impose Security Council sanctions following the crackdown.

Kyaw Hsan also said sanctions had not helped and insisted the junta would not be swayed by external pressure.

"I would like to point out that the previous pressures and sanctions did not provide any assistance to our democratization process, and nor did the new pressures and sanctions of the US and EU," he told Gambari.

"If you wish to see democracy flourishing in Burma you should try to persuade other nations to cooperate with us in assisting (us with) the task," Kyaw Hsan said.

"Here, what would we like to say is that we will welcome positive coordination and cooperation for Burmese affairs, but will never accept any interference that may harm our sovereignty," the paper quoted him as saying.

The UN in a statement noted that "Mr. Gambari and his counterparts had very frank and extensive exchanges."

Gambari pushed for the lifting of restrictions on Aung San Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest in Rangoon, and political prisoners, the UN and Kyaw Hsan said.

But the junta stuck to its position that the detained Nobel peace prize winner must first abandon her support for international sanctions if she wishes to see progress towards national reconciliation.

"As the government made efforts in building national reconciliation, it was necessary for the other side to give response to such measure. The minister asked Mr. Gambari to explain this point to her," the New Light of Myanmar said.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has expressed concern about the lack of progress in Gambari's mission to try to push for democratic reforms.

The pro-democracy protests began in mid-August after a massive hike in the price of everyday fuel, but escalated into the biggest threat to the generals in nearly 20 years when Buddhist monks emerged at the forefront.

AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

6 US troops killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Six American troops have been killed in bomb attacks in Iraq, the US military said on Tuesday, making 2007 the deadliest year for the American forces since the invasion. According to an AFP tally based on Pentagon figures, 851 US soldiers have died so far this year in Iraq, against 846 in 2004, the previous most lethal year for the American military since the US-led invasion of March 2003. The US military's overall losses in Iraq since the invasion four years ago have now reached 3,856, according to an AFP tally. *AFP*

Suicide bomber recruiters nabbed

MILAN—The Italian government said on Tuesday it had "decapitated" a pan-European network recruiting suicide bombers, with raids targetting 20 suspects in Italy, France and Portugal. The "very important operation has decapitated a jihadist network that operates across Europe ... with the aim of preparing men to send to the Iraqi and Afghan theaters," Interior Minister Giuliano Amato told a news conference in Rome. The group was primarily comprised of Tunisians, Amato said, adding that the operation was carried out in cooperation with security forces of several other countries. Eleven people were arrested in Italy. Nine other suspects are sought in France, Portugal and Britain under European arrest warrants issued by a Milan court. *AFP*

9 Iranians held in Iraq to be freed

BAGHDAD—Nine Iranians being held in Iraq would be released soon, the US military said on Tuesday, just days after US officials signalled a possible change in approach by noting positive Iranian developments in Iraq. US military spokesperson Rear Adm. Greg Smith said the Iranians to be released included two who were among five detained by US forces in northern Iraq in January on suspicion of providing support to Shiite militias. The others were detained over the past several years. *Reuters*

Ex-Illinois Gov heads for prison

CHICAGO—Former Illinois Gov. George Ryan will surrender himself to begin serving a prison term, his lawyer said on Tuesday after a US Supreme Court justice turned down a bid from the Nobel Peace Prize nominee to remain free while he appeals his corruption conviction. "He said OK ... He said he was prepared to surrender," Jim Thompson, Ryan's lawyer and himself a former Illinois governor, told reporters about the 73-year-old Ryan's reaction when he got the word. Thompson said he would accompany Ryan to a federal prison in Oxford, Wisconsin, where he must report by sunset on Wednesday to begin serving a 6-1/2 year sentence. *Reuters*

Trial of Serb ultranationalist starts

THE HAGUE—The leader of Serbia's ultranationalist Radical Party faces charges including murder, torture and persecution of non-Serbs when his trial opens at the UN war crimes tribunal on Wednesday. Vojislav Seselj gave himself up to the court in 2003 and pleaded not guilty. He remains leader of the Radicals, Serbia's strongest single party for almost a decade. The trial had been set to begin late last year but Seselj went on hunger strike for 28 days after being prevented from defending himself. He eventually won back the right to self-defense. *Reuters*

Poll campaign starts in Thailand

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S POLITICAL PARTIES rushed to register candidates on Wednesday as campaigning kicked off for a Dec. 23 election that the junta insists will return democracy after a coup last year.

There was a festive atmosphere in Bangkok where the leaders of the key parties descended on a stadium to hand in their candidate lists as the Election Commission (EC) officially launched the campaign.

"This election is crucial for our country. It will lead our country to full democratic rule," EC chair Apichart Sukhagganond told party leaders.

Apichart reassured politicians that the EC would remain neutral throughout campaigning for the election, which will come 15 months after Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted by the Army.

"I want to reassure everyone that under my chairmanship, the EC is politically neutral and there is no power that can interfere with this Election Commission," he said.

Parties have until Sunday to register candidates who will contest the 80 party list seats in parliament which are voted for according to regional zones. Registration opens on Monday for candidates for the other 400 constituency seats.

The junta and the civilian government it appointed have vowed that the poll will bring a full return to democracy in Thailand.

But analysts question how free and fair the elections can be when about a third of the country is still under martial law and Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai (TRT) party, which stormed the polls in 2001 and 2005, has been dissolved.

Pro-democracy activists have also expressed concern about a new constitution that was approved at a referendum in August, which critics warn rolls back democratic reforms included in the previous charter.

AFP

PULSE INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY, INC.
Only Uses Licensed Autodesk Software in its Business!

Pulse Integrated Technology, Inc. is a company involved in the equipment repair, training and equipment maintenance services to high tech companies in the electronic industry. It represents products that are used in the manufacture of high tech electronics and semiconductor device products and do design and basic assembly of spare and consumable parts needed in equipment use in the manufacture of high tech products.

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It recognizes that the use of licensed software creates innovation and contribute to the growth of the Information and Communications Technology Industry creating more job opportunities for the Filipino people.

Pulse Integrated Technology, Inc. is now taking advantage of the benefits of increased productivity and efficiency using Autodesk, Inc's licensed software in its drafting and design processes.

It believes that the use of unlicensed software, which is a criminal offense under the Intellectual Property Law of the Philippines, must be put to a stop.

(PDI - Nov. 8, 2007)

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
Office of the President

INVITATION TO BID

The HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION (HGC) is offering for sale, in cash or installment, on "bulk sale" basis the "leasehold rights" of the property described as follows:

Project Name : Mindoro Loop (Eastgate Village)
Location : Binictican Heights, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City
No. of units : 52 units
Floor area : 163 sq. m. / unit
Selling Price : P157,000,000.00

General Guidelines:

1. The sale of the property shall be on an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis.
2. All bidders may offer to buy the property in cash or installment term. Only cash sales shall be entitled to discounts.
3. Terms of Payment
   - 3.1 For **CASH SALE,** 10% discount rate for spot cash payment
   - 3.2 For **INSTALLMENT SALE** 20% minimum downpayment

     Balance payable in equal monthly installments over a maximum of ten (10) years at seven and a half (7.5%) interest per annum
4. Bidding documents can be secured from the Asset Management Disposition Group located at the 4th Floor Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Activities	Date/Time
a. Publication of Invitation to Bid	November 7 & 8, 2007
b. Submission of Letters of Intent & Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	November 19-23, 2007
c. Pre-bid Conference	November 27, 2007, 2:00 PM
d. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements & Financial Proposals/Offers	November 29, 2007, 2:00 PM

5. The sealed bids should be dropped in the designated drop box located at the Asset Management Disposition Group, 4th Floor Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.
6. All bidders are enjoined to inspect the property before submitting their bids.
7. The award of the sale covering the property shall be based on the offer determined to be most advantageous to the Corporation.

For inquiries, please call our Marketing and Sales Department at 896-04-25 or 897-31-49 or visit our Head Office at the Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS**
VICE PRESIDENT
ASSET MANAGEMENT AND
DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI–November 7 & 8, 2007)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

PROJECTS TO BID	TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	APPROVED BUDGET	PLACE OF DELIVERY	BIDDING FEE
ITB No.: 10-05-2007 Supply, Delivery Installation and Commissioning of One (1) Lot Generator Set with Automatic Transfer Switch Control	One Unit Brand New Diesel Electrical Generator Set 950-1000 KVA/760-800KW, standby rating, 230V, 60 Hz, 1800 rpm, Three Phase, 0.80 Power factor, Imported (US or Europe), Factory pre-built, Coupled/assembled for remote mounted radiator with matching heat exchanger installation One Unit Brand Automatic Transfer Switch Control Imported built, Rated 2500 AT, 3P, 230V, 60Hz, MCCB, Fixed-type in Nema, 1 Floor mounted enclosure.	Eight Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php8,350,000.00)	Slot Machine Ronquillo Arcade	Four Thousand One Hundred Seventy Five Pesos (Php 4,175.00)
ITB No.: 10-13-2007 Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Two (2) Units Escalator Machines for the Slot Machine Expansion of PAGCOR-Cebu	Tread Width: 1,000mm; Capacity: 4,500 Passengers/hour; Speed: 30m/min; Angle of Inclination: 30/35 degrees, Power Source: AC 60/50 Hz, 380-440V, Rise (H): 4 M (approx.) Driving Motor: Three Phase Induction Motor; Operation System: Reversible System	Three Million Pesos (Php3,000,000.00)	PAGCOR Cebu	One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php1,500.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

1. ITB No.: 10-05-2007: Supply, Delivery Installation and Commissioning of One (1) Lot Generator Set with Automatic Transfer Switch Control

Activities	*Schedule*
1 Issuance of Bid Documents	November 07, 2007 – November 26, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 13, 2007 (2:00 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	November 27, 2007 (2:00 pm)
4 Opening of Bids	November 27, 2007 (2:00 pm onwards)

2. ITB No.: 10-13-2007: Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Two (2) Units Escalator Machines for the Slot Machine Expansion of PAGCOR-Cebu

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 09, 2007 – November 28, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 16, 2007 (10:00 am)
3. Submission of Bids	November 29, 2007 (10:00 am)
4. Opening of Bids	November 29, 2007 (10:00 am onwards)

Complete details of the projects are indicated in the **bid documents** which will be available to prospective bidders at the BAC Secretariat Unit, 2nd Floor, 1330 PAGCOR House, Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee as stated above. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, 2nd Floor, 1330 PAGCOR House, Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila, Tel No.: 524-3911 / 521-1542 local 223/571.

(SGD) RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO
Chairperson, BAC 3

(PDI—Nov. 8, 2007)

Afghanistan's deadliest bombing kills at least 40

PUL-I-KHUMRI—A SUICIDE BOMBING TARGETing lawmakers killed at least 40 people in northern Afghanistan, including children and six deputies, in the bloodiest attack since the 2001 fall of the Taliban.

The dead included Mustafa Kazimi, a former commerce minister who headed the parliament's economics committee and was a key figure in the opposition.

Four of his bodyguards were also killed.

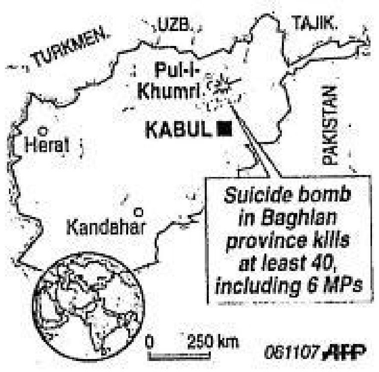
The attacker was among a crowd of scores of people, many of them children, who had gathered to welcome a delegation to a sugar factory, a parliamentarian who survived told AFP early Wednesday.

"As I stepped out of my vehicle, an explosion took place. It was huge and shook the earth under our feet," said Aziz Ahmad Nadem.

"I saw a flame and thick black smoke rising into the sky. Around me I saw lots of people lying dead, burnt and wounded. Many of them, I noticed, were children. People were just lying in blood everywhere, all around me."

Afghanistan

Suicide attack was most deadly since the fall of the Taliban in late 2001


TURKMEN.
UZB.
TAJIK.
Pul-i-Khumri
KABUL
PAKISTAN
Herat
Kandahar
Suicide bomb in Baghlan province kills at least 40, including 6 MPs
0
250 km

061107 AFP

Around 120 people were hospitalized after the blast late Tuesday shattered the calm of the peaceful, rural town of Pul-i-Khumri, about 150 kilometers north of Kabul, a provincial health official said.

Dozens of people were still being treated Wednesday.

Afghanistan has suffered a rash of suicide bombings that are often claimed by the extremist movement, which has been waging a bloody insurgency since it was toppled in late 2001 by a US-led coalition.

"In four hospitals we have registered 120 injured and 40 dead," said Yousuf Faiz, the head of hospitals in Baghlan province.

He said most of the dead were children and six were members of the national parliament.

The toll was likely to fluctuate as details of the carnage became clearer Wednesday.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. The Taliban denied it was involved. The al-Qaida-linked insurgents have previously rejected involvement in attacks that have killed civilians but their claims cannot be trusted.

The attack sent shock waves across the country, where Taliban violence is most often focused on the southern and eastern areas bordering Pakistan.

President Hamid Karzai condemned the "heinous act of terrorism" and ordered the Army and other authorities to help treat and evacuate the wounded.

US Gen. Dan McNeill, who heads the Nato-led military force here to help the government fight the insurgency, said troops provided medical assistance and a damage assessment team.

"This was an act of terrorism on a most indiscriminate scale," he said in a statement.

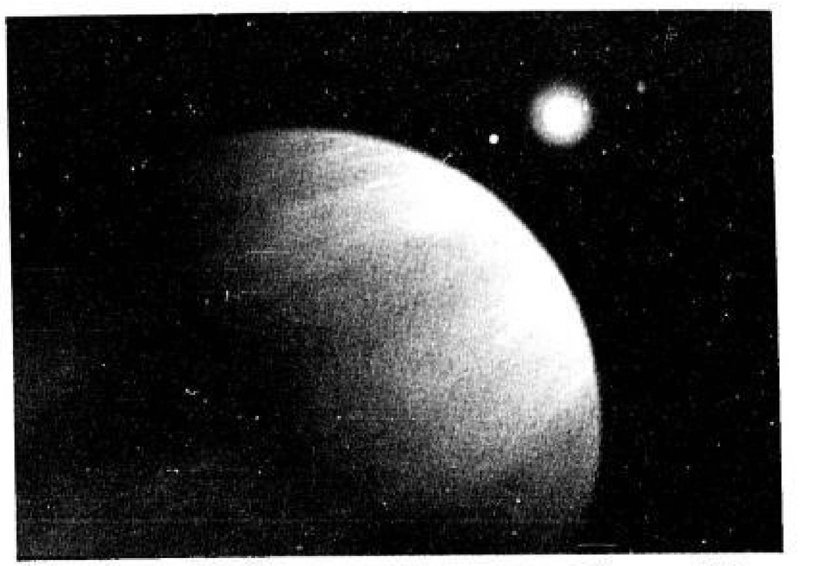
The White House led international condemnation of the bombing and vowed to keep working with Nato to defeat extremists and terrorists.

Spokesperson Dana Perino said the attack "is a despicable act of cowardice and it reminds us who the enemy is—extremists with evil in their hearts who target innocent Muslim men, women and children." United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon denounced the suicide bombing and voiced anxiety about the unstable security situation in the country.

The British ambassador in Kabul, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, also offered his condolences. "There can be no justification for such an attack. We must never allow the 'enemies of the people of Afghanistan' to win," he said.

Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi called it a "horrible terrorist act," while Canada described it as a "deliberate assault on democracy."

AFP



AN ILLUSTRATION shows an artist's impression of planets orbiting around a star similar to that of the solar system. Nasa scientists discovered a fifth planet orbiting a star outside our own solar system and say the discovery suggests there are many solar systems that are, just like our own, packed with planets. REUTERS

US astronomers find system with 5 planets

WASHINGTON—NASA SCIENtists said they discovered a fifth planet orbiting a star outside our own solar system and say the discovery suggests there are many solar systems that are, just like our own, packed with planets.

The new planet is much bigger than Earth, but is a similar distance away from its sun, a star known as 55 Cancri, the astronomers said on Tuesday.

Four planets had already been seen around the star, but the discovery marks the first time as many as five planets have been found orbiting a solar system outside our own with its eight planets, said Debra Fischer, an astronomer at San Francisco State University.

Life could conceivably live on the surface of a moon that might be orbiting the new planet, but such a moon would be far too small to detect using current methods, the astronomers said.

"The star is very much like our own sun. It has about the same mass and is about the same age as our sun," Fischer told reporters.

"It's a system that appears to be packed with planets." It took the researchers 18 years of careful, painstaking study to find the five planets, which they found by measuring tiny wobbles in the star's orbit. The first planet discovered took 14 years to make one orbit.

They said 55 Cancri is 41 light-years away in the constellation Cancer, a light-year being the distance light travels in one year—about 9.4 trillion km.

The newly discovered planet has a mass about 45 times that of Earth and may resemble Saturn, the astronomers said.

It is the fourth planet out from the star and completes one orbit every 260 days—a similar orbit to that of Venus.

"It would be a little bit warmer than the Earth but not very much," said Jonathan Lunine, a planetary scientist at the University of Arizona.

Reuters

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Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
November 8, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	TOSHIBA INFORMATION EQUIPMENT (PHILIPPINES), INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Yoshiyuki Yano/ Japanese	President & Director
2.	PHCP, INC. FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Tomoichi Endo/ Japanese	President
3.	NITTETSU MICROMETAL CORPORATION PHILIPPINES FPIP, Sta. Anastacia, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Kiyoshi Kojima/ Japanese	President
4.	NITTO DENKO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION CIP I, Canlubang, Calamba City	Mr. Hiroyuki Nakata/ Japanese	Sales Manager
5.	FUJITSU COMPUTER PRODUCTS CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES CIP I, Canlubang, Calamba City	Mr. Mitsuaki Yoshida/ Japanese	Director of HDD Manufacturing Engineering Dept.

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI-November 8, 2007)

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WHAT'S INSIDE

RP team drops top guns /A27

SPORTS

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Peping worries over SEAG quintet, too

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC Committee is justifiably worried that the national quintet may not have the best talents for the coming Southeast Asian Games in Thailand.

"What I don't understand is why can't we field in the best possible team?" wondered POC president Peping Cojuangco Tuesday night.

He also noted the growing concern about the capability of the present team which is made up mainly of standouts from the Philippine Basketball League.

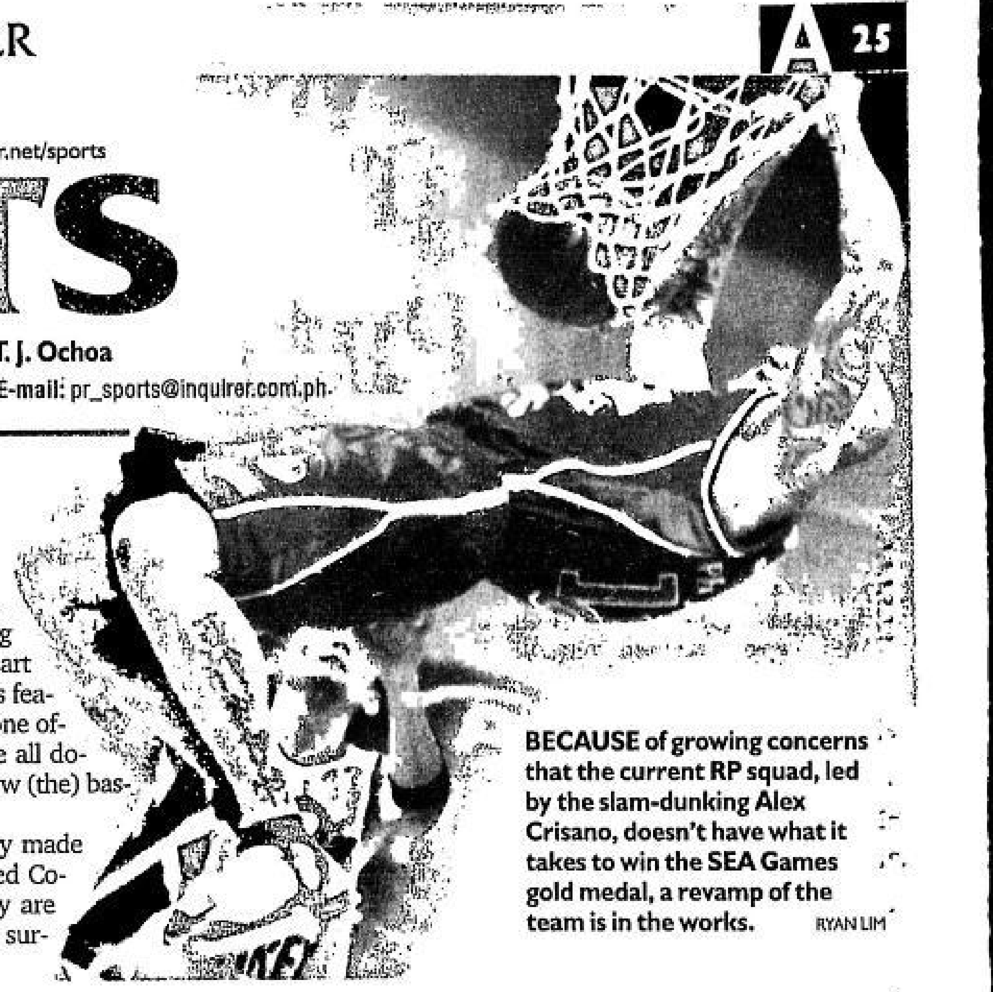
Informed of the imminent changes in the lineup, Cojuangco said the country must not only make sure to win the gold but win it convincingly.

"If we don't win the basketball gold medal, even if we eventually win the overall championship, it would still not be complete," said the POC chief who will lead the RP contingent in the Thailand SEAG on Dec. 6-16.

"For sure, everybody there will be [figuring out] how to beat us," said Cojuangco, who recounted a conversation with Thai officials when he joined an ocular inspection of the Keelapirom Stadium inside Suranaree University of Technology where basketball will be held in Nakhon Ratchasima.

While Thai sports officials were showing them the state of the art basketball arena and its features, Cojuangco said one official told him: "We are all doing this for you, we know (the) basketball gold is yours."

"That statement only made me feel nervous," added Cojuangco. "I'm sure they are just setting us up for a surprise."



BECAUSE of growing concerns that the current RP squad, led by the slam-dunking Alex Crisano, doesn't have what it takes to win the SEA Games gold medal, a revamp of the team is in the works. RYAN LIM

RP five to get needed boost

Norwood, pros beef up Nat'ls

By Jasmine W. Payo

FIVE MORE AMATEUR STANDOUTS ARE set to beef up the Harbour-Philippine team with the BAP-Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas hoping to complete the lineup with several PBA players to bolster its championship bid in the Southeast Asian Games next month.

"We're not asking the PBA to give up its marquee players," said BAP-SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan as he exuded confidence that the pro league would grant their request for key reinforcements after an emergency meeting Tuesday night.

Among the names that cropped up were Talk 'N Text point guard Egay Billiones, Magnolia's 6-foot-2 guard Chris Calaguio and Air 21's center-forward Homer Se.

"The team owners whose players have been requested are very positive about it," said Ricky Vargas, BAP-SBP vice chair and last season's PBA chair. "We just need to do some work. There are PBA rules we have to work out."

"It's just to plug the holes," added Vargas. "They have problems with the point guard [position] and problems with the big man."

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee	3	0
Harbour Centre	3	0
RP Team	4	2
Toyota	2	1
San Mig Coffee	2	1
Mail and More	0	3
Bacchus	0	3
Pharex	0	4

GAMES TODAY (Ninoy Aquino Stadium)

2 p.m.—RP Team vs San Mig Coffee

4 p.m.—Mail and More vs Toyota Balintawak

The five amateurs expected to join the Nationals after their weeklong tune-up series in Singapore are Hapee's Fil-Am guard Gabe Norwood, University of the East and Pharex mainstay Elmer Espiritu, Harbour Centre guard Al Vergara, San Beda's Ogie Menor and Toyota Balintawak's Eric Rodriguez.

"With these five new players, we're more confident of bringing home the gold medal," said Mikee Romero, Harbour Centre owner and SEAG project director.

Team officials and BAP-SBP reached the decision to revamp the national five during a meeting at the PLDT office.

"With the present team, we cannot get the gold; we'll have a hard time," said national coach Junel Baculi.

The Nationals—who absorbed two embarrassing losses in six games as a guest squad in the PBL—will play their final game against San Mig Coffee today before leaving for their Singapore stint on Saturday.

"It's no judgment on the lack of skills of the PBL players," said Pangilinan. "It's just that in the international competition—if you've seen the Fiba Asia Championship in Tokushima—it requires certain physical features that may not be present in the players in the PBL or collegiate teams."

Only Jason Castro has consistently delivered stellar performances for the Nationals, who will try to close out their PBL campaign with back-to-back wins at 2 p.m.

Toyota Balintawak tangles with Mail and More at 4 p.m.

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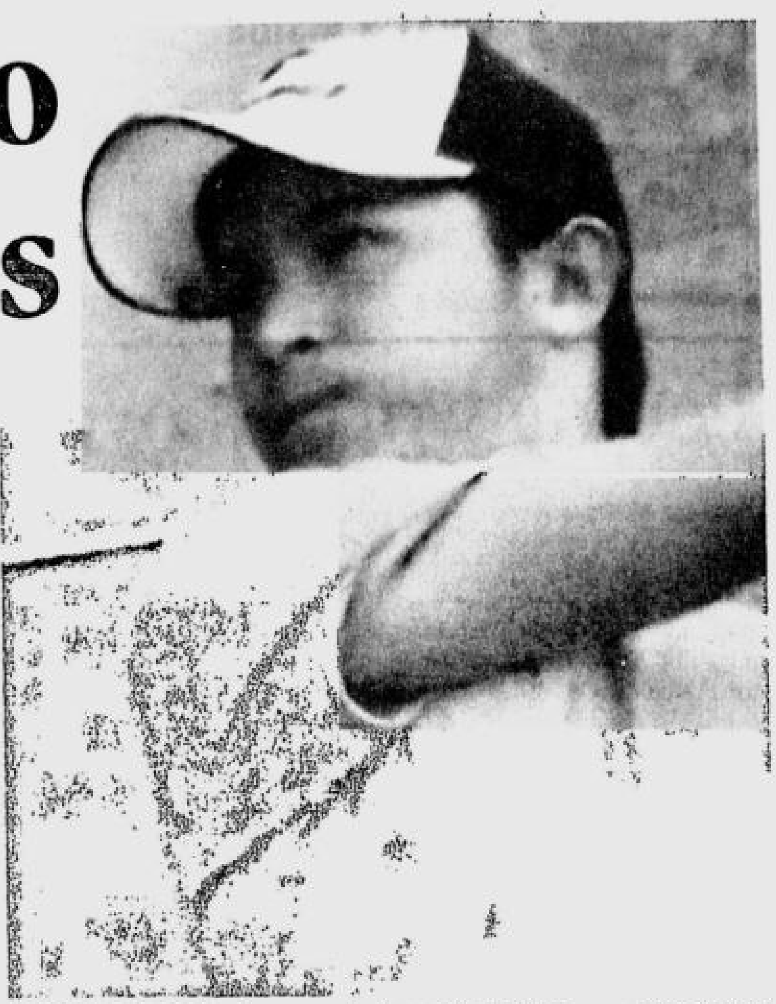
Amateur champ Fernando out of Putra, SEAG squads



FERNANDO: Endorsing a product was his undoing. ARNOLD ALMACEN

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE CAMPAIGNing in two big international golf events without its reigning amateur champion.

Anthony Fernando was officially stripped of his amateur status yesterday after the governing National Golf Association of the Philippines found him guilty of violating an age-old amateur rule on product endorsement.

Fernando posed for a particular brand of golf club in a full-page advertisement that appeared in a popular monthly golf magazine shortly after topping the RP amateurs, leaving the NGAP no choice but to strike him off the team.

At the same time, the NGAP named ace Jay Bayron, rookie Ferdinand Aunzo and National Caddies' Open products Mark Fernando and Jonel Ababa to the Putra Cup and Southeast Asian Games teams.

The Putra Cup, regarded as Southeast Asia's official team championship which the Philippines used to dominate, will be held Nov. 27-30 at the Country Club in Laguna.

The loss of Anthony Fernando's amateur status came on the heels of the NGAP and golf patron ICTSI finally coming to terms again.

ICTSI had withheld its players—Fernando, Aunzo, Asian Games bronze medal winner Michael Bibat and Bayron—from joining the national team for the Nomura Cup that was held in Taipei last month over a dispute in the non-inclusion of Bayron to the team.

The NGAP had contended that since the Philippines had little chances of winning the Nomura Cup, it was sending Ababa instead of Bayron for international exposure, a reason that did not sit well with the ICTSI team's handler.

Ababa, the first champion of the NCO who qualified to the RP pool by finishing fifth in a marathon elimination, showed his true value to the team by tying for 10th spot in the individual race in Taipei.

Thailand will be the site of the SEAG early in December and Bayron and Co. will be trying to win the team gold for the second straight edition.

"We can't risk disqualification when we enter a tournament (with Anthony Fernando) and some other country finds out about it," NGAP director on rules Caloy Coscoluella said.

"We just have to play by the rules and the rules state that he cannot play as an amateur anymore."

Coscoluella said that Fernando, who was furnished a letter by NGAP official Jun Galindez, can apply for amateur status with the NGAP but will have to wait for a year before the golf body can grant his request.

Filter Kings reach semis

THE MIGHTY FILTER KINGS SECURED the first semis berth in the MBT Corporate Cup by downing Wangs Ball Club, 80-73, Monday at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong.

Seeking to win their second title in the tournament, the Gerry's Grill-backed Mighty Filter Kings leaned on the steady shooting of PBL veteran Edrick Ferrer and Marvin Sioco to take the sting out of their rivals.

The win was the fifth straight for the Mighty Filter Kings since dropping their initial assignment in their group elims.

The game was close in the first three quarters until Ferrer and Sioco found their range. Ferrer and Sioco had 13 points apiece to lead the team's well-balanced attack.

Sioco highlighted his game with four triples while Ferrer awed his defenders with his daring drives.

Also shining for the Mighty Filter Kings are Ruel Asay and Erick Suguitan who combined for 19 points and 11 boards.

Aside from basketball, the Mighty Filter Kings, through their Mighty Sports Association, are also into organizing football tournament. They launched the Mighty Football Festival in Bacolod last July.

SPORTSWATCH

Breezewoods golfest

BREEZEWOODS DEVELOPMENT CORP., IN COoperation with Rotary Club of New Manila and Philippine Association of Realtors Board (Pareb), will hold a golf tournament on Nov. 9, at 8 a.m. at the Valley Golf and Country Club.

A two-storey townhouse unit to be donated by Breezewoods will be at stake for a hole-in-one. For tickets at P2,500 each, text Nanett at 0917-8583238.

Breezewoods president Francisco Buencamino said the tournament aims to raise funds for charity and community development projects as well as training seminars for brokers and real estate managers.

Bakbakan round 3

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MAKATI COLISEum as the third round eliminations of the NFGB National Bakbakan 10-stag derby continues today.

Seeing action are well-known gamefowl breeders from 24 breeders groups affiliated with the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB).

Due to the spillover of numerous entries from the provinces, one more round will be staged at Pasig Square Garden tomorrow, said NFGB president Ricoy Palmares.

"The extra round at Pasig Square will give our members one last chance to enter the semifinals. Remember, P15 million is at stake in the championship round." said Palmares.

For details, call 6465858 and 6465828.

Marcelo pulls off Thailand shocker

MARCELO: From last to first

BANGKOK—THE PHILIPPINES' Stefano Marcelo staged a spectacular race, coming from the tailend of the 20-man pack to emerge overall champion in the Thailand Grand Prix 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship at the Sarabburi Circuit here.

The thrilling victory turned the 15-year-old Marcelo into an instant star for Thai motorsports fanatics, who were awed by the Filipino's driving skills and strategy in thwarting top favorites European Guykoh Boonhan, Japanese ace Shota Kitazono and Thai champion Tanart Sathienthirakul.

"Coming to Thailand, we knew this race would be extremely difficult considering our rivals are all skilled karters with high-powered engines," said Marcelo, who lauded the support of San Miguel Corp. and the whole Marcelo Racing Team.

Stefano's woes started in the Pre-Final event, where he placed second to Tanart only to be disqualified for using an oversized air box inlet. Consequently he landed in the 20-man grid of the Formula 125 Open class.

With the airbox fixed as specified, Stefano drove like a wild man in the Finals, stunning even his father John Marcelo.

As the green light turned on, Stefano pulled a gutsy move on the first long sweeping corner passing four drivers before entering the heavy braking right hand hairpin.

In the jostling for position tenth-placed Freddy Numan Lawan punted Stefano hard out of the track twice. Stefano got back despite losing three positions and again passed Lawan down the straight.

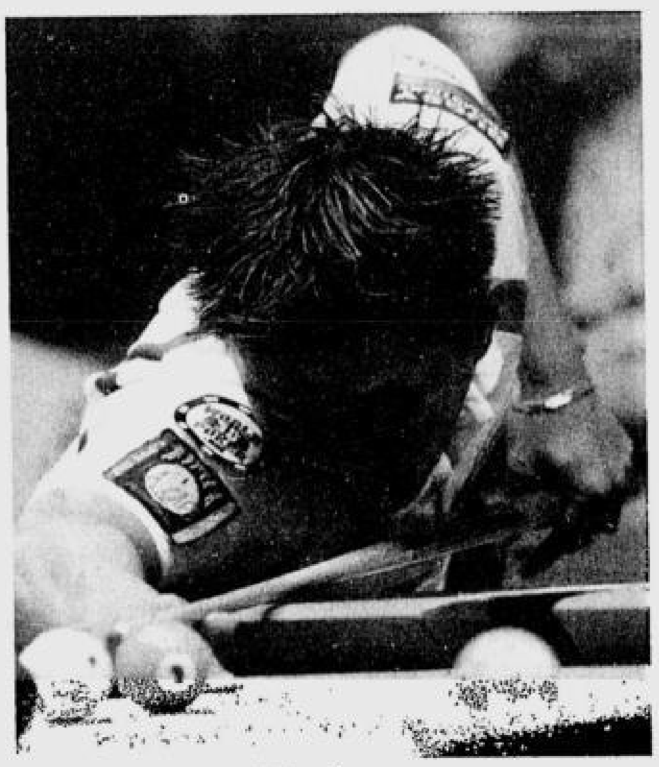
Stefano climbed to ninth with 15 laps to go, got into fourth place in the next four laps and wrested third place from Kitazono with six laps to go.

Breaks later turned Stefano's way as Tanart started experiencing a strong vibration on his kart. While second placer Guykoh was battling with Tanart, the two didn't realize that Marcelo was coming in fast from behind to join the battle up front.

In the last four laps, Stefano made a real bold move, pulling a big dive exactly in between Guykoh and Tanart coming in from a long high-speed straight into a tight left hairpin that sent the gallery in the grandstand screaming and up on their feet.

Stefano got beside Tanart into the hairpin and pulled ahead to grab the lead with two laps to go. The crowd gave Stefano a big applause at the end of the 22-lap race. Guykoh took second after passing Tanart just before the finish line.

De Luna enters Beauty and Best



DE LUNA eyes more big bucks. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

JEFFREY DE LUNA TRIES to sustain his winning ways when he competes in the San Miguel Corporation (SMC) Mixed Doubles: Beauty and the Best 9-Ball Championship on Nov. 24 at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ) in Zambales.

The 23-year-old De Luna won the top purse of P1 million in the recent 1st Manny Pacquiao International 9-Ball Open Championships by beating fellow Bugsy ace Dennis Orcollo in the finals at the Mall of Asia.

Sponsored by Makisig Channel 76 and IBC 13, the event will feature eight fancied professional players teaming up with eight gorgeous ramp models.

Aside from De Luna, Doha Asian Games 9-ball silver medalist, the other players invited to play in the entertaining but competitive event are double world champion Ronato Alcano, Dennis Orcollo, Antonio Gabica, Roberto Gomez, Gandy Valle, Jharome Pena and Carlo Biado.

"I'm hoping to win again in the SMC Mixed Doubles," said De Luna. "But for now I'm focused on the World Pool Championship, especially because I'll be facing tough opponents in the knockout stage."

De Luna is scheduled to face National Open champion Lee Vann Corteza in the round-of-64 last night.

De Luna, dubbed "Jeff Bata," is one of the five-member RP team that will go up against the Rest of the World on Nov.12-13 at the Filipiniana Hotel in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

Celebrity Poker tourney tonight at Players' Den

THE CELEBRITY POKER TOURNAMENT will be held tonight at the Players' Den in Malate with the winner taking away a free entry to the World Boxing Council (WBC) Celebrity Charity Poker Tournament on Nov. 13 and 14 at the Airport Casino Filipino in Parañaque.

OSCAR dela Hoya

Several local media, music, sports, television and film celebrities are expected to join the Nov. 8 free roll tournament to get a chance to play with international sports celebrities like Oscar dela Hoya, Lennox Lewis, Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Roberto Duran and Tommy "The Hitman" Hearns and win a BMW car and millions of pesos.

The tournament will start at 8 p.m. at Players' Den located on Mabini Street, Malate, near Malate Church and just across the former Hobbit House Bar and Restaurant. Aside from free entry to the WBC Celebrity Charity Poker Tournament, gift checks to vistamar are up for grabs.

Players' Den business manager Joe Bartolome said the WBC Celebrity Charity Poker tournament entry ticket is worth $550.

Last Thursday, President Arroyo declared November as WBC month, citing the importance of the event to promote the country as a world class convention center and prime tourist destination.

10-bout card set for WBC convention

A 10-BOUT CARD WILL BE PREsented by MP Promotions on Nov. 14 at the SM Mall of Asia as part of the WBC's 45th Annual World Convention.

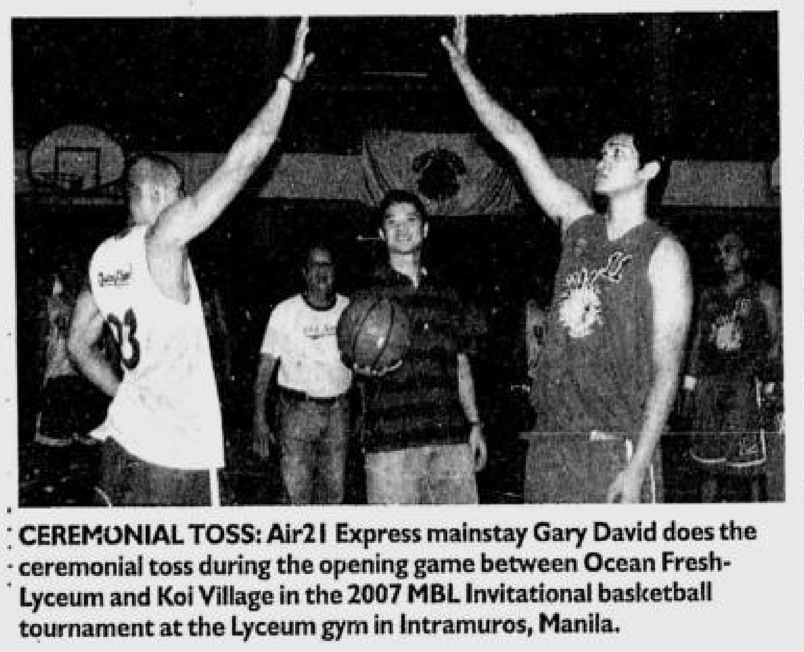
The convention will officially kick off on Nov. 12 at the Manila Hotel, with President Macapagal-Arroyo in attendance, according to GAB chair Eric Buhain, who is leading the preparations for the event.

Leading the card is the grudge encounter between Filipino Jimrex Jaca and Japan's Ryu Miyagi, who fought to a technical draw on August 25 at the same venue.

Three Philippine title bouts are also lined up in the undercard, with RP super featherweight titlist Dodie Boy Agrabio staking his crown against Aaron Melgarejo.

Super bantam champ Jake Verano will risk his title against Jun Talape, while Arniel Tinampay and Dondon Sultan will vie for the welterweight throne.

Balweg Bangoyan will defend his PBF 122-lb title against Cris Besmanos while a special 6-round bout features Japanese Naozumi Tsuchiyama and Filipino William Jorge. Other bouts pit Roel Laguna versus Edgar Gabejan; Danilo Pena against Richard Olisa; Ali Cali against Ronel Ferreras; and Juan Martin Elorde versus Glen Mondol. Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor



CEREMONIAL TOSS: Air21 Express mainstay Gary David does the ceremonial toss during the opening game between Ocean Fresh-Lyceum and Koi Village in the 2007 MBL Invitational basketball tournament at the Lyceum gym in Intramuros, Manila.

PNSA turns over shooting hosting to India

AFTER THE COUNTRY'S SUCCESSFUL hosting of the 2007 Asian Clay Shooting Championship at the PSC-PNSA Shooting Range in BuCor, Muntinlupa, recently, Asia's top shooters will meet again in February next year for the Jaipur, India, edition of the tournament

The week-long tournament was capped by a brief but meaningful turnover ceremony, where Philippine National Shooting Association (PNSA) president and former Olympian Arturo Macapagal turned over the Asian Clay Shooting Federation flag to B.B. Singh, head of the Indian shooting team and representative of the Indian Shooting Federation.

The event, organized by the PNSA, underscored China's supremacy in clay shooting in the region, as it ran away with nine of the 12 gold medals at stake. The Chinese also bagged four silvers and a bronze. India won two golds, while Kuwait bagged one.

The Philippines, which will be sending practically the same team in the 24th Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December, won two bronze medals, one each in the men's trap team event and the women's team skeet, besting eleven other countries in the process.

"The tournament paved the way to further strengthen the camaraderie, friendship among the participants," said Gay Corral, chair of the organizing committee. "More importantly, it allowed us to measure the Philippine team's strength against our Southeast Asian neighbors for the SEA Games in Bangkok."

MACAPAGAL (left) hands over the Asian Clay Shooting Federation flag to B.B Singh.

Not much help for nat'l squad

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

PBL COMMISsioner Chino Trinidad appeared at the PLDT offices the other night with his arms riddled with an assortment of cuts, scrapes and wounds.

Chino told SBP officials, with whom he was meeting that night, that he had not been manhandled by his wife Babette.

He admitted though, that his injuries were the result of a misadventure with his latest passion.

"It's not a girl, silly. It's a sport. Cycling."

Chino said he got thrown off his mountain bike when he stepped hard on the brakes to slow down a downhill skid.

It happened in a dirt road in Montalban last Sunday.

"I took on the new hobby to commune with nature and overcome my fear of bikes."

Chino said that the phobia developed 10 years ago when he almost lost his life while covering the Tour of Luzon bikathon for Vintage.

He wasn't riding a bike though then, but an L-300.

Last year, Chino also figured in another accident while biking in San Mateo.

With all these mishaps, how will he ever be able to overcome his phobia of bicycles?

* * *

Chino was at the PLDT offices Tuesday night to help find a way to strengthen the Harbour Centre-RP team which will compete in the Southeast Asian Games this December.

Basketball godfather Mikee Romero had appealed for assistance after the nationals lost twice in the ongoing PBL series.

RP head coach Junel Baculi admitted it would be difficult to win the gold with his present lineup.

Junel, just like everybody else, knows only too well that we cannot afford anything less than a gold medal in the SEAG.

* * *

I don't know exactly what transpired for almost three hours inside the PLDT boardroom on the 6th floor, but when the doors were opened to the press, it appeared that nothing much was resolved.

Although Lito Alvarez was not in the meeting, he made it known that the offer to lend four Air21 players still stood.

But Lito said it will have to be a package deal which will include KG Canaleta, Ranidel de Ocampo, Wynne Arboleda and Arwind Santos.

To be able to lend these players without jeopardizing the performance of the Express, Lito had appealed to the PBA board to adjust the schedule of the games during the SEAG.

Scribes assigned to the PBA beat said this was next to impossible because the PBA will never change schedule in midstream.

More importantly, they said the league prohibits a cager to play in any tournament while the conference is ongoing. This rule is in the PBA's constitution and bylaws," according to veteran scribes.

I don't know the rule on reserved players.

* * *

According to Chino, Hapee's Cecilio Pedro has agreed to lend Fil-Am Gabe Norwood, who would certainly be a big help to the RP cause.

But Cecilio, I understand, has certain terms and conditions which might be difficult to meet.

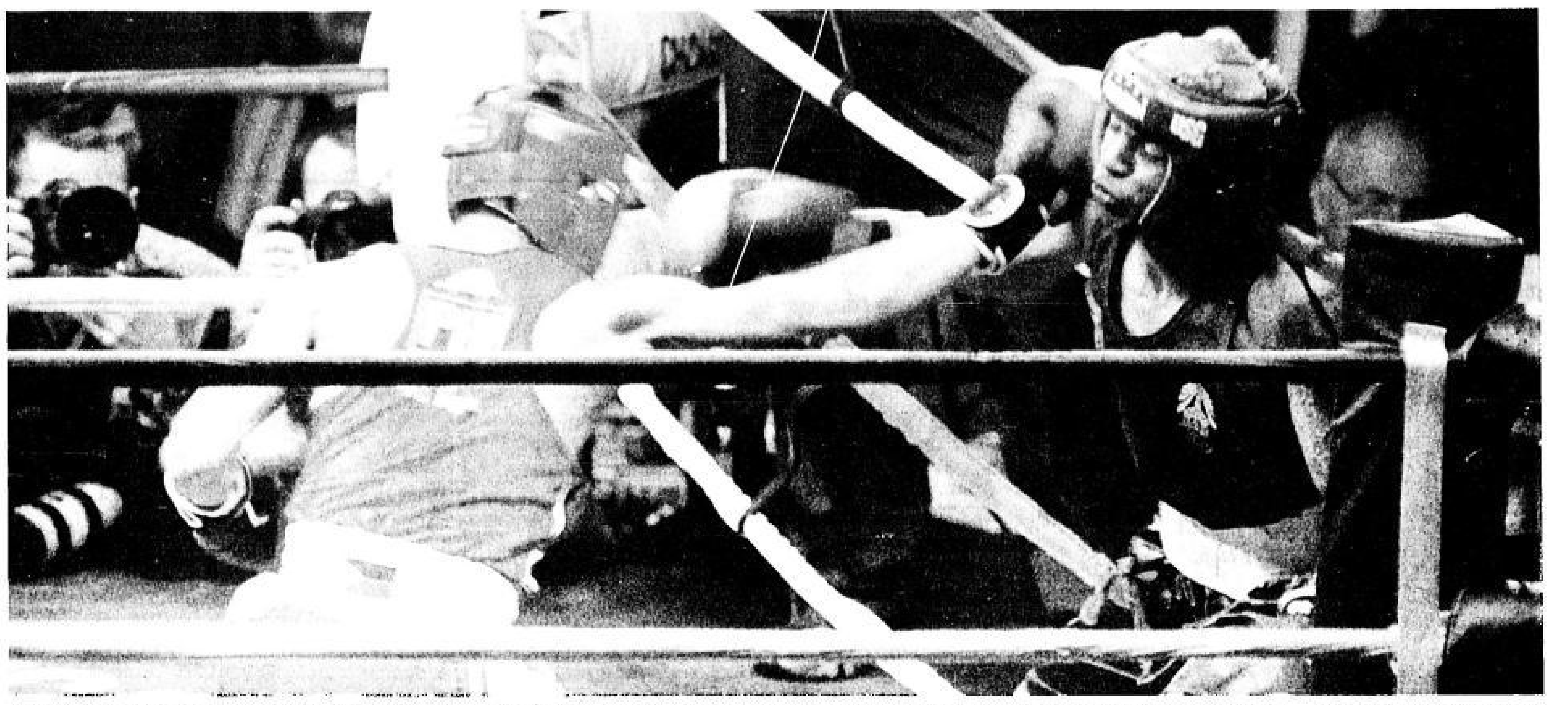
It would be interesting to know what these are.

Gabe is in Mikee Romero's wish list, along with Elmer Espiritu of UE, and PBA players Homer Se, Egay Billones, Wynne Arboleda and Ranidel de Ocampo.

I hope Mikee finds a genie who can grant his wish.

* * *

Birthday greetings to my Scorpio boss Teddyvic Melendres (Nov. 9), and friends Norman Black and Rhea who both celebrate on the 12th.



AFTER taking the silver in the World Championships, Harry Tañamor (left), seen here cornering Thai Anmat Ruenroeng, will be given "active rest." MANNY ZAMBRANO/CORRESPONDENT

SEA GAMES BOXING

RP team drops top guns

Banged-up Tañamor, Payla rested; Tipon booted out

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA—The RP-PLDT-Smart boxing team needs more than a knockout punch to retain its overall championship in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

Not only will the country field new faces in the SEA Games, but it must also contend with powerhouse Thailand, which is hosting the biennial event next month.

"We 'expect rough sailing in Thailand," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny T. Lopez during the International Boxing Invitationals between the nationals and members of the Northern California All Stars Monday at the University of San Francisco Memorial Gym here.

Lopez, who joined the team after the AIBA World Boxing Championships in Chicago, Illinois, said light flyweight and Beijing Olympics qualifier Harry Tañamor, Doha Asian Games gold medalists Violito Payla and Joan Tipon will not be fielded in the SEA Games.

Tañamor, Payla and Tipon bagged gold medals during the 2005 SEA Games held in Bacolod City.

"Harry needs an active rest after winning the silver medal in Chicago so he can have all the time in the world to prepare for Beijing," said Lopez, who also acted as jury chief in the two-week long World Boxing Championships which attracted boxers from 120 countries.

"Payla also needs a breather before joining the Asian Olympic qualifying January in Bangkok."

Tipon, a bantamweight, however, is a different story. While Payla and Genebert Basadre came within a win of snatching Oympic berths in the Chicago worlds, Tipon continued to struggle, losing in the first round against rival and Athens Olympics silver medalist Worapoj Pethkoom of Thailand.

He was also a flop in the Smart National Open in Cagayan de Oro City, losing to eventual champion Orlando Tacuyan Jr.

'Joan must wake up and realize that winning the gold in Doha is not the end of it all," noted Lopez. "Remember that our target is the Olympic gold."

Lopez said the Abap has submitted to the Philippine Sports Commission the names of light flyweight Albert Pabila, flyweight and Asiad bronze medalist Godfrey Castro and Tacuyan as SEAG bets.

Comebacking Larry Semillano may also replace welterweight Wilfredo Lopez, who also failed to hurdle the first round in the world championships and like Tipon lost in the San Francisco Invitationals.

"The coaching staff headed by Pat Gaspi and I believe that we need to give Tacuyan and Co. the chance to show their worth in the SEAG," Lopez said.

"Tacuyan is very talented but needs more international exposure to polish his skills," noted Gaspi.

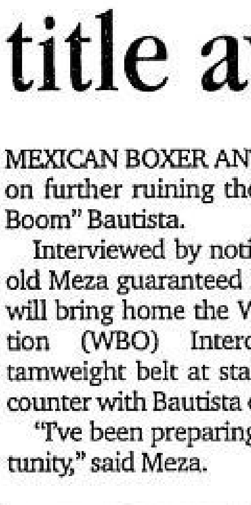
In a determined bid to dislodge the Philippines as overall champion, Thailand will field light flyweigt Amnat Ruenroeng, flyweight Somjit Jongjohor, featherweight Adi Sailom, lightweight Pichai Sayota and welterweight Non Boonjumnong, who pocketed Olympic berths in Chicago.

Meza says he'll take Bautista's title away

MEXICAN BOXER ANTONIO MEZA IS BENT on further ruining the career of Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista.

Interviewed by notifight.com, the 25-year-old Meza guaranteed his countrymen that he will bring home the World Boxing Organization (WBO) Intercontinental superbantamweight belt at stake in his 12-round encounter with Bautista on December.

"I've been preparing for this kind of opportunity," said Meza.



MEZA

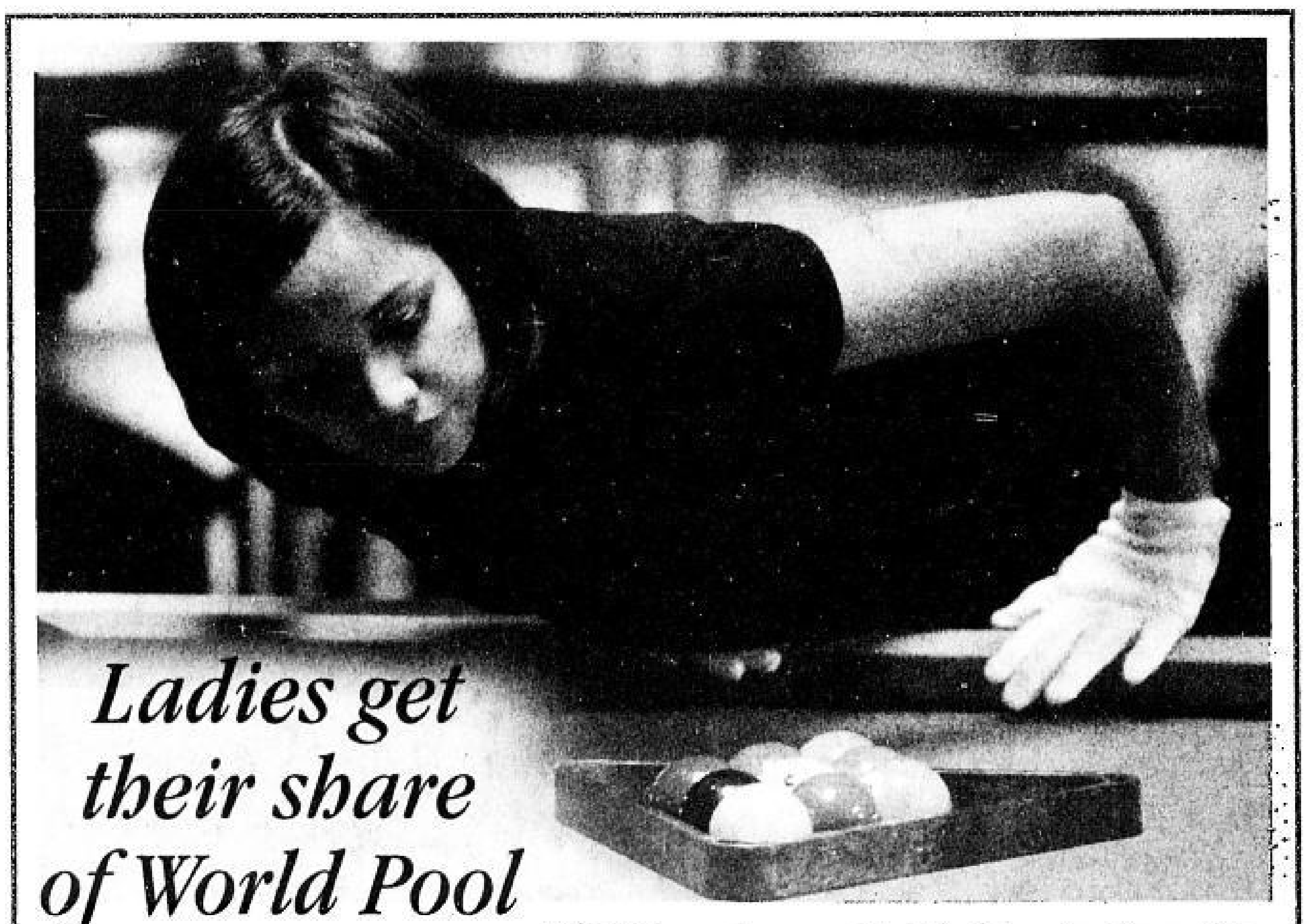
Meza will conclude his training on Nov. 26 and I will immediately fly to Manila. This will be Meza's first fight outside of Mexico.

"I'm ready to fight in the Philippines and will bring the title back home," said Meza.

Meza has a record of 23-2 with 16 knockouts while Bautista carries a 23-1 record with 17 KO's.

Bautista is hoping that a victory will regain for him the glitter he lost when he bowed to world super bantamweight champion Daniel Ponce De Leon of Mexico.

The Meza-Bautista bout will headline a boxing extravaganza scheduled on the morning of Dec. 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.



ALL EYES are on the current World Pool Championships, and it's not just because of the cue stars. Cielo Lopez turns heads herself too. (*World Pool main story on A19*) AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Ladies get their share of World Pool spotlight

By Musong R. Castillo

THERE'S A FEMALE REFEREE who's also getting the attention of a lot of male spectators in the 2007 World Pool Championship—and she's not Mikaela Tabb.

Cielo Lopez, 28, walks with the grace of a fashion model and conducts herself well while officiating matches, becoming the tournament's new darling.

Tabb, 39, is that famous British brunette who also happens to be regarded as the top snooker and pool referee in the world.

Lopez must have been Leonardo Andam's lucky charm in his match with Raj Hundal, the big Englishman, on Sunday night when Andam became the longest Filipino shot to make the Last 64.

Lopez, a very eloquent speaker, was wearing a V-necked black shirt that day, revealing more than enough skin as she set the balls up before the start of each rack.

At one point during the match Andam won, 9-8, Hundal gave the attractive referee a piece of his mind, complaining of an alleged favoritism for the Filipino in setting up the balls.

But he apologized to Lopez after the match and even took some time for a little chat.

Lopez confessed to being a "frustrated" pool player and said that watching the tournament on television last year made her decide to try her luck at officiating.

* * *

The head-to-head match up between the Philippines and Taiwan, regarded as the pool powerhouses of the world, is so far tilted in favor of the hosts, at least after four days of group play on Tuesday.

There were only two Filipinos—from a tournament-high 15 that made the main draw—who failed to make the knockout stages, a staggering 86 percent success rate.

Taipei, on the other hand, managed to put 10 of its 14 entries into the Last 64 for a success rate of just over 71 percent.

The Taiwanese have their own television crew to cover their progress and a horde of print mediamen to cover their exploits.

A long-legged, long-haired lady reporter, who does live interviews on Taiwanese players every now and then, is also a looker.

"This is because pool is a very big sport back home," the charming Yang Mei-ting told the INQUIRER. "Pool is so big that many of us consider it a national sport back home."

* * *

One good thing about the current elimination format in the 2007 World Pool Championship is that it has lessened—if not totally taken away—the tendency of some players to deliberately drop their matches in favor of their countrymen.

Players only get to play no more than three matches in his group of eight and if there is such a thing as a match he can afford to lose, then it is just one.

In previous editions, players go through as many as seven matches in round robin play, and if one happens to win his first four or five, he can easily lose the next two and still have a strong shot at advancing.

Shell chess listing ongoing

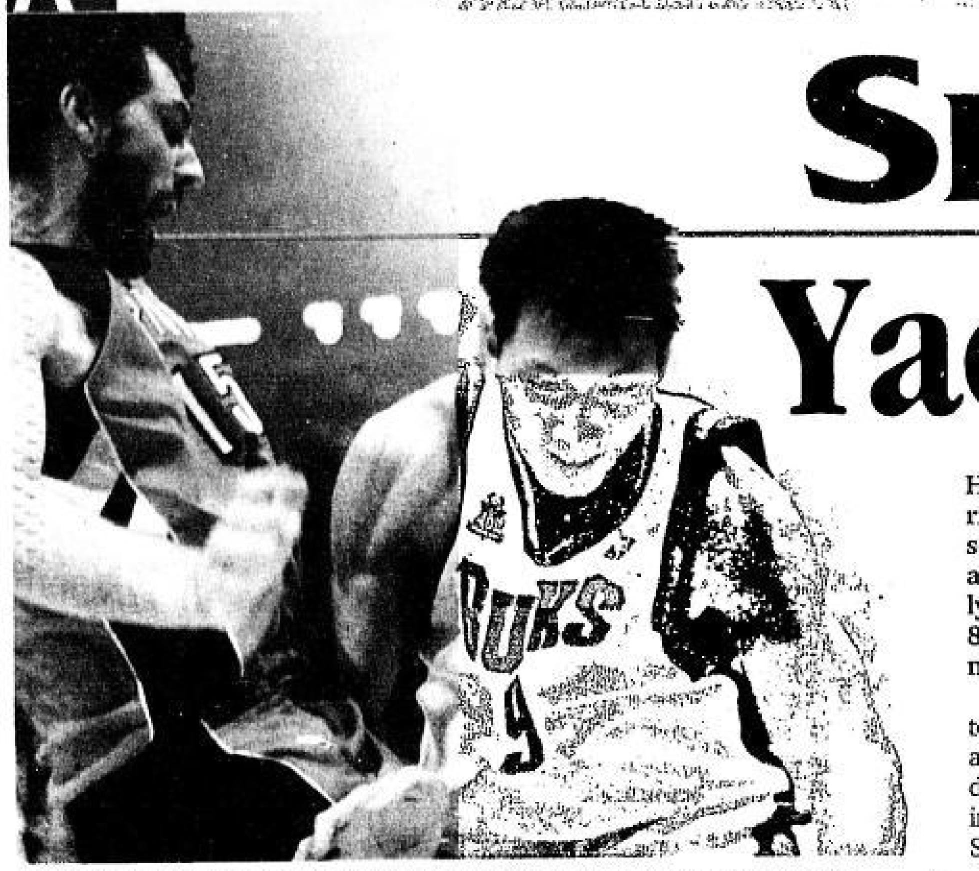
OVER A HUNDRED PLAYERS WILL CLASH for top honors in the 2007 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships, which unveils its 15th season next year with the staging of the National Capital Region leg at SM City Manila.

Registration is ongoing on a first-come, first-served basis. The first 500 participants will be given slots in the two-day event featuring players 20-years-old and below (juniors, born not earlier than 1987), and 14-years-old and below (kiddies).

The NCR leg serves as the kickoff leg of an eight-stage province-hopping series put up by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation in its continuing effort to help develop the sport and at the same time discover talents who could be tapped and trained to become future stars in the field of chess.

Registration forms are available at all Shellane showrooms nationwide and at selected Shell depots/installations, service stations and local offices. For details, call 7441664 or 0922-8288510.

SPORTS



MILWAUKEE'S Yi Jianlian (right) runs into Toronto forward Jorge Garbajosa. AP

Yao, Yi wreak havoc

HOUSTON, TEXAS—YAO MING CARried Houston on his back once again, scoring 28 points and 13 rebounds as the Rockets defeated the previously unbeaten San Antonio Spurs, 89-81, Tuesday at the Toyota Center arena.

While US media, like ESPN, continue to highlight every mistake by Yao, the giant Chinese center showed why he is the dominant player in his position, outscoring and playing solid defense against Spurs superstar Tim Duncan.

Former playoff MVP Duncan shot just five of 15 from the field and four of eight from the free throw line for a total of 14 points.

"I hope (Monday) night's situation does not happen again, when we had a couple of turnovers in a row (in the closing minutes)," said Yao, who continues to silence his North American critics by improving each season.

Bucks 112, Raptors 85

In Milwaukee, Desmond Mason was a perfect 10-for-10 from the field and Chinese rookie Yi Jian-lian collected 12 points as Milwaukee rolled over Toronto at the Bradley Center arena.

It was the second straight game Yi had reached double figures for the Bucks. He scored 16 points and had eight rebounds Saturday against the Chicago Bulls. *AFP*

COMPLETE RESULTS: Phoenix 115, Charlotte 83; New York 119, Denver 112; New Jersey 87, Atlanta 82; Orlando 111, Minnesota 103; LA Clippers 97, Chicago 91; Sacramento 104, Seattle 98; New Orleans 118, LA Lakers 104; Cleveland 108, Golden State 104

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Justine, Ana win opening WTA matches

Ana Ivanovic AFP

MADRID—WORLD number one Justine Henin began the defense of her WTA Championships singles title with a confident 6-1 7-6 win over Russian Anna Chakvetadze on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old Belgian rattled through the first set in 24 minutes but had to resist a determined fightback by her opponent before winning her opening round-robin match in the yellow group of the $3 million end-of-season tournament.

Ana Ivanovic, the youngest of the eight players in Madrid, celebrated her 20th birthday with a 6-1 4-6 7-5 victory over world number two Svetlana Kuznetsova in an enthralling encounter in red group.

Ivanovic blew Kuznetsova away in the first set but the gritty Russian leveled and the two players produced outstanding tennis as they slugged it out in the decider, the Serb eventually edging the win with a break in the final game.

"I knew I had to start well because she is such a strong player and I tried not to give her too many chances and it worked well for me," Ivanovic told reporters.

"At the end, I tried not to think about the score any more, but I'm really happy I was able to stay calm and break her."

Maria Sharapova, who won the event on her debut appearance in 2004 but has struggled with injury problems this season, also made a winning start in red group with a 6-4 7-5 victory over Daniela Hantuchova. *Reuters*

Stage set for Milo run finals

These runners are ready for Sunday's final race.

SOME 300 RUNners will gather on Sunday at the Rizal Park when the 42.195-kilometer Milo Marathon holds its grand finals.

The race starts at the Jose Rizal monument and will end at the Quirino Grandstand.

National team members who have qualified to run in the finals like Eduardo Buenavista, Roy Vence, Allan Ballester, Christabel Martes and defending champions Julius Sermona and Jho-An Banayag will skip Sunday's race as they are training for the 24th Southeast Asian Games slated next month in Thailand.

Without the big names, the favorites to bag the P75,000 grand prize include Crifrankreadel Indapan, Jerry Lindawan, Juniel Languido, Rene Desuyo, Junel Boncit and Abraham Barcarse Jr. in the men's race.

The distaff side will be a tight battle among Estela Mamac-Diaz, Ailene Tolentino, Flordeliza Carreon, Maricel Maquilan, Ellen Tolentino, Sealand Agana and Mona Liza Ambasa.

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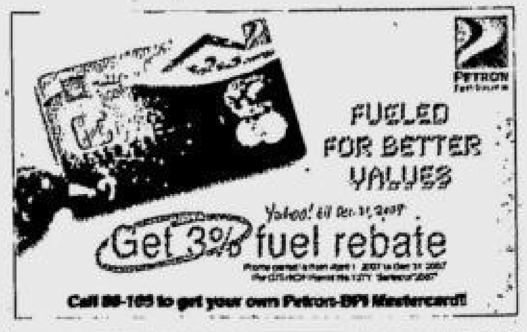
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Forex reserves hit all-time high of $32.4B

Peso at 7-year high of 43.275 to $1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' FOREIGN EXCHANGE REserves surged to a new record high of $32.4 billion as of end-October from $30.9 billion in end-September as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas bought more dollars to slow down the peso's appreciation.

The local currency yesterday rose to a new seven-year high of 43.275 to a dollar, leading the rally of Asian currencies, as the US credit jitters that spooked global markets earlier this week fizzled out.

The peso, which closed near the day's peak of 43.27:$1, gained another 33.5 centavos from Tuesday's finish of 43.61 to a dollar. Volume traded at the Philippine Dealing System amounted to $749.2 million.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank strategist Jonathan Ravelas said the peso was supported by the onset of the strong overseas Filipino workers' remittance season ahead of the Christmas holidays. He said the weakening of the dollar against the euro amid talks that China might diversify its foreign reserves also perked up the local currency.

"At this speed, 43:$1 is just around the corner," Ravelas said.

The $1.5 billion or 4.9-percent month-on-month rise in the gross international reserves (GIR) was attributed by BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. to the central bank's "foreign exchange operations due in turn to the continued strong inflows of foreign exchange as well as receipt of income from the BSP's investment abroad."

"In addition, the PSALM (Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Management Corp.) deposit with BSP of proceeds from the sale of some of its assets following the implementation of its privatization program also contributed to the increase in the GIR level," Tetangco said.

When the government auctioned the 600-megawatt Calaca coal-fired power plant last month, the winning European bidder was required to put up a performance bond of about $300 million.

FOREX/ B2

Jollibee buys Beijing fast-food chain

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FAST FOOD GIANT JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. yesterday said it has completed its acquisition of a Beijing congee chain for $50.5 million (roughly P2 billion).

Jollibee chair Tony Tan Caktiong told reporters that the company has signed a memorandum of agreement with the owners of Hongzhuangyuan to take over the Beijing casual dining restaurant chain.

"It's a done deal. We requested the owner to stay with us for a year for the transition," Tan Caktiong said.

He added that Jollibee was trying to complete its roster of food brands in China, similar to what it has done in the Philippines with its latest acquisition of a congee chain.

In China, Jollibee controls Chinese-style fast-food chain Yonghe King and operates Chun Shui Tang Tea House, its first high-end venture in Shanghai, China, through a Taiwan restaurant franchise.

Tan Caktiong also said the company would soon bring the Jollibee brand to Shenzhen, a city near the boundary of China and Hong Kong, either by late

JOLLIBEE/ B2

INDICATORS

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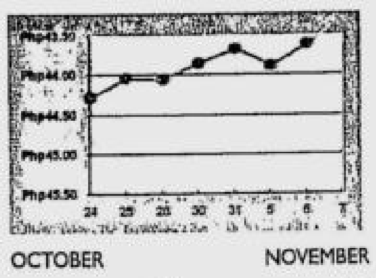


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱43.275 = $1

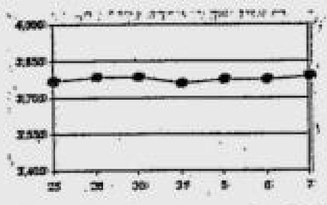
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 7, 2007

¥113.88 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 7, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.4% higher



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.4-PERcent higher yesterday due to gains in index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and mining shares, dealers said.

They said the rise in PLDT came after international credit rating agencies affirmed the company's foreign currency ratings, with a stable outlook.

The composite index added 14.63 points to 3,788.26 after moving between 3,769.17 and 3,802.42. The broader all-share index inched up 3.64 points at 2,345.06.

There were 56 advancers and 41 decliners, while 68 stocks were flat. Volume reached 2.6 billion shares valued at P5.9 billion.

Despite ending the rangebound session in positive territory, the market appeared nervous about high oil prices, said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

"We expect this consolidation phase to continue for a few more

SHARES/ B4

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NUMEROUS BUSINESSES HERE, all reputable and established, are now the targets of investment houses for IPO. You know—going public!

The reason is obvious: Stocks are so hot that the market seems to be breathing fire.

I hate to report to you that, most of the time, those investment houses must deal with frustration. For them, convincing those businesses to take our money in an IPO is like trying to tell our motorists to obey traffic rules. It is just a waste of time.

Those businesses shirk at the thought of doing IPOs for the simple reason that they do not need the money. Hmm.

But there is more to IPOs than just raising the interest-free cash. They are the only definitive equitable way to spread the wealth.

Look, when GMA Network (Channel 7) for instance recently did its IPO, it also did not need the money, as the foreign fund managers pointed out to the GMA 7 people, particularly Felipe Gozon, president and CEO, during the company's roadshow for the IPO.

Well, the network was looking at a cash flow of about P3 billion this year.

What Gozon told the fund managers might have floored them. He said the network just wanted to share its good fortune with the public.

* * *

ACCORDING to Forbes magazine, the founder of the aggressive real estate giant Megaworld, the low-key Andrew Tan, is now the country's fourth richest man.

To most of us, Andrew Tan may seem to have zoomed his way to the Forbes list of Filipino billionaires (in American dollars, okay) from out of nowhere.

He founded Megaworld only about 14 years ago, right? The company did its IPO only in 1994, right? Yes, Andrew Tan's rise to fortune is rather phenomenal.

Before Megaworld became a big hit, the man was just busy breaking into the local liquor market, with his "Emperador" brandy, in a business dominated for more than 100 years by a couple of companies owned by Spanish decent. You know—Elizalde in Tanduay, Ayala in Ginebra, Soriano in San Miguel.

Here is my take on the man: On his way to the top of the heap, Andrew Tan carried the public with him.

In contrast, a lot of people amass fortunes just for themselves.

Last June, you see, Megaworld did a FOO—a "follow on offering"—selling new shares to the public at P1.38 each.

Based on its published capital account, Megaworld now has some 20.5 billion outstanding shares, and because of that FOO, the public now owns about 11 billion of the shares.

In short, the company is now 54-percent held by the public. Meaning, that the shares do not belong to Andrew Tan.

Many supposedly "public" companies have only 20 percent of their outstanding shares held by the public.

Yesterday, anyway, Megaworld shares were doing at P4.40 a share. Now do the math. The public, as owner of 54 percent of Megaworld, who bought the FOO shares at P1.38 each, is today richer by P33 billion.

Others just miss one important point in why businesses must go public. Do you think that spreading the wealth around never entered their minds?

* * *

WORD GOES around the Chinese-Filipino community that Lucio Tan (second richest, according to Forbes, which is contested by my Binondo contacts, who claim that Tan is far richer than the country's supposedly richest man) is grooming his son and namesake Lucio "Bong" Tan Jr. as heir apparent of his business empire.

It is not a small one—the Lucio Tan group is into banking, real estate, hotel, airlines, tobacco, liquor, beer, etc. Well, both here and abroad! Particularly in China!

The business community of course is watching the Lucio Tan group because of the succession issues among the country's richest Chinese-Filipinos known in media as "taipan."

It is said in the business academe (AIM, for instance) that because the taipans have total control of their business empires, whoever takes over from them will have a hard time. Thus, the empires are in danger of disintegrating.

John Gokongwei Jr. already handed the reign to son Lance. In the SM group of Henry Sy, his daughter Tessie Sy is emerging as the "next in line." George Ty also put his son Arthur as head of Metrobank.

(On which, Security Bank president Alberto Villarosa commented that Metrobank may yet become a fearsome competitor, because Arthur is saying the right things.)

Anyway, business pundits have been pointing to Lucio Tan's younger brother Mariano as the likely successor of the taipan.

Signs no longer support such a thesis. For instance, they point out that, in terms of influence in the Lucio Tan empire, Mariano has been eclipsed by Domingo Chua, who is the brother-in-law of Lucio Tan.

Bong Tan is now having a serious management stint at Fortune Tobacco and Micro Asia (airline services).

Who knows—the first big test for Bong Tan may yet be taking the group public.

I know, Lucio Tan does not need the money. The group still has to spread the wealth.

* * *

IN THIS COUNTRY, every foreigner must carry a piece of plastic—i.e. identification card—issued by the Bureau of Immigration.

And for such, the foreigner must cough up $50.

I am not sure if Immigration Commissioner Marcelino "Nonoy" Libanan, who was a three-term congressman from Eastern Samar, already gave his blessings to the practice.

I just know that it can be contested in court.

Now, the proponent of the BOT (build operate and transfer) of the $50 ID is a Chinese national living in Canada.

According to business organizations, the cost of the plastic ID is only $2 at the most. Initially, some 300,000 foreigners were issued the IDs. All told, the Canadian Chinese already made P750 million here. And there are more foreigners coming over, right?

Lucky guy.

Forex reserves hit all-time high of $32.4B

From page B1

The country's foreign reserve build-up last month was even curbed by debt service payments on the national government's maturing foreign obligations.

The GIR is a key indicator of a country's ability to cover the foreign exchange requirements of its economy, consisting of the central bank's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund.

"At this level, the GIR can cover 5.8 months' worth of imports of goods and payments of services and income," Tetangco said.

Meanwhile, the net international reserves—including the revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities—stood at $32.3 billion from the end-September level of $30.9 billion.

NIR refers to the difference between the GIR and the total short-term liabilities. The year-on-year change in the NIR in turn determines the country's balance of payments.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation or debt servicing is a deficit item in the BOP while any which gives rise to a receipt like borrowing, exporting or overseas Filipino worker remittance is a surplus item.

Jollibee buys Beijing fast-food chain

From page B1

December or early June.

Shenzhen is a city in Guangdong province in southern China, touted as a center of foreign investment and has one of the busiest ports in China after Shanghai.

Tan Caktiong said he was being urged to bring Jollibee's recently acquired bakeshop brand Red Ribbon and its pizza and pasta line Greenwich to China.

No decision has yet been made on this.

"The issue is not of demand (in China). The market is always there. It's how you are able to tap the market," Tan Caktiong said.

The Hongzhuangyuan chain has an estimated total sales of $24 million in 2007 and presently operates 26 company-owned stores all in Beijing and seven franchised stores in other cities in China.

Tan Caktiong earlier said that what lured the Jollibee to the Beijing chain was its unique concept consisting of serving a variety of local Chinese food centered around congee.

"The product offerings at their price points provide superior value, thus attracting a high number of customers at different parts of the day. We believe that this restaurant chain has the potential for broad acceptance across China," Tan Caktiong had

The acquisition amount will be paid in cash in three tranches over a period of 12 months from the time of completion of the acquisition.

Over the past four years, Jollibee has bought Red Ribbon Bakeshop in the Philippines and the United States, and the remaining 50 percent of Delifrance's franchise in the Philippines.

PSE amends listing rules

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE HAS proposed key changes to its listing rules to lure companies, especially those that receive tax incentives from the government, to go public.

PSE president Francis Lim said the revised listing rules would allow these recipients of government incentives to list by way of introduction.

Listing by way of introduction allows a company to be a member of the exchange and therefore trade its shares, without the need of an immediate initial public offer, by virtue of the company's widely held shares.

Lim explained that at present, listing by way of introduction did not require an affected company to immediately offer its shares to the public.

Under the revised rules, the affected company would be given a year from the date of listing to offer its shares to the public.

"The revised rules will attract companies that do not see the immediate need to raise capital from an initial public offering but want to realize the benefits from being listed companies," Lim added.

CURRENCIES

November 7, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.686908	1.000000	43.7610
Japan	Yen	0.005991	0.008721	0.3816
United Kingdom	Pound	1.434332	2.088100	91.3773
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.088478	0.128806	5.6367
Switzerland	Franc	0.599815	0.873210	38.2125
Canada	Dollar	0.745342	1.085069	47.4837
Singapore	Dollar	0.475040	0.691563	30.2635
Australia	Dollar	0.635731	0.925497	40.5007
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.823487	2.654632	116.1694
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.183665	0.267380	11.7008
Brunei	Dollar	0.473403	0.689180	30.1592
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000076	0.000110	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.021803	0.031741	1.3890
UAE	Dirham	0.187117	0.272405	11.9207
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.455800	63.7073
Korea	Won	0.000757	0.001102	0.0482
China	Yuan**	0.092165	0.134174	5.8716
Denmark	Kroner	0.134170	0.195324	8.5476
India	Rupee	0.017510	0.025491	1.1155
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.205907	0.299760	13.1178
New Zealand	Dollar	0.533106	0.776096	33.9627
Sweden	Kroner	0.108151	0.157446	6.8900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021214	0.030883	1.3515

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 6, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 6, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 7, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.7	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.2	83,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	61	61	60.5	60.5	1,047,700
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	66.5	68.5	66.5	68	2,606,500
748	540	China Banking Corp.	705	705	700	700	6,100
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.43	0.44	0.41	0.43	2,030,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	62.5	63.5	62	62	5,667,100
65.5	35.5	Philippine National Bank	48	48	45.5	46	494,200
68	43	Philippine Savings Bank	61	62	61	62	2,700
39.57	18.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	28	28	27	27	1,456,000
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	77	77	77	77	400
66	45.99	Union Bank of the Philippines	49.5	50	49	49.5	135,400
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.04	2.04	1.98	2.04	3,762,000
16.25	4.45	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	14	14.25	14	14.25	390,400
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	41.5	42	41.5	42	500
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.1	5.3	5	5.2	4,903,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,970.00	1,970.00	1,970.00	1,970.00	320
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.3	2,232,000
3.1	1.26	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	140,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	1,340.00	1,340.00	1,205.00	1,305.00	8,790
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,480.00	2,500.00	2,480.00	2,500.00	1,730
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	476,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	1,453,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	61	62	60	60.5	1,492,200
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	84	85	84	84.5	776,700
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	4,287,600
105.45	23.64	Manila Electric Co.	83.5	83.5	83	83.5	1,367,200
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	15,284,000
7.4	3.9	Petron Corp.	7	7	6.8	6.8	8,295,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	41,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	30,000
2.3	1	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	2	2.1	1.92	1.92	15,630,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	325,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.86	1.88	908,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	50	50	49.5	50	826,000
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	210,000
3.7	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	190,000
80	55.5	San Miguel Corp. "A"	57	57	55.5	55.5	160,000
88	57	San Miguel Corp. "B"	58	60	58	58	490,500
0.66	0.31	Swift Foods Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	20,000
6.5	3	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	6,000
21	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.75	10,503,000
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.5	318,000
21.5	6	Federal Resources Inv. Group Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	7,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	309,000
7	2.65	Republic Cement Corp.	4.6	4.65	4.6	4.65	36,000
2	0.55	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	4,108,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	2,102,000
2.4	1.31	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2	2.2	2	2.2	51,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.4	0.43	0.39	0.4	48,670,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	576,000
0.185	0.045	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.155	0.165	444,250,000
1.28	0.235	APC Group Inc.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.7	5,950,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	459,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.9	3.1	2.8	3	513,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	143,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc	7.2	7.2	7	7.1	3,759,000
0.021	0.008	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	218,900,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	22,029,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.86	0.92	0.86	0.91	1,250,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.38	2.44	2.36	2.36	417,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	640	640	615	630	680,820
5.8	1.46	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.45	4.5	777,000
12	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	11	12	11	11.5	4,143,400
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.2	69,000
8	2.65	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.8	345,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments Inc.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	55,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11	11.5	11	11.5	641,300
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
0.95	0.28	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	100,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.5	6.6	1,505,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	306,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22	353,030,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	377.5	380	375	380	1,567,860
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	86,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.41	9,120,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	20,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.56	1.6	273,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	13.75	14.75	13.75	14.75	52,200
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	6,890,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	150,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.62	1.8	1.62	1.66	4,046,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	12,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc	16	16.25	15.75	16	25,111,500
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.34	1.38	1.34	1.36	2,886,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.05	4.15	4.05	4.05	7,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.62	2,350,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	1,400,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	3,310,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	23,000,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.06	16,614,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.74	1.76	32,665,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	120,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	960,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.35	4.4	30,992,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	5	5.2	5	5.2	765,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	5,570,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.53	0.51	0.51	5,630,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	9,829,000
5.9	1.67	SM Development Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.3	4.3	265,000
13.5	7.44	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.25	11.5	12,172,000
3.25	1.36	Shang Properties Inc.	2.34	2.34	2.3	2.3	638,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	2.9	3.1	2.9	2.9	3,035,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	1,060,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.31	11,640,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.2	5.2	4.95	5.2	16,142,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	34	34.5	34	34	145,400
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	578,000
1.14	0.9	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.92	100,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.48	1,670,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,730.00	1,730.00	1,715.00	1,720.00	83,400
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,050.00	3,050.00	3,040.00	3,045.00	217,840
8.1	5.3	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	2,154,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9	9	8.9	9	103,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9	9	8.8	8.9	742,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.044	0.044	0.042	0.043	38,600,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	4,600
0.32	0.044	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.185	9,780,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.3	1,370,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.055	18,500,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.05	3.05	1,196,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	15,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4	4	4	4	5,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	42.5	42.5	41.5	42	4,572,800
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	397,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.12	2.85	1,264,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod. Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.84	0.84	9,990,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	370,000
		EDUCATION					
950	650	Far Eastern University Inc	810	810	780	780	3,470
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	511,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2	Macroasia Corp	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	415,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12	12	11.75	12	660,000
30	9.7	Parys Inc.	10	10	9.7	9.7	1,474,000
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	116,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.1	6.7	6.1	6.5	5,866,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	6.1	6.8	6.1	6.6	5,144,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.5	1,064,100
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	13.5	13.75	13	13	28,100
12	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	10.25	12	10.25	11.25	7,800,000
3.1	0.6	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.48	2.5	2.44	2.44	42,755,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.33	26,420,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	10,530,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	141,700,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	65,700,000
30	2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	24.5	26	24.5	25.5	6,259,100
0.021	0.0083	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	39,200,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	11	11.25	10.5	10.75	13,751,200
47	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	45	47	45	46.5	390,100
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.86	0.86	880,000
1.8	0.69	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	1,921,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2,170,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	144,300,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	29,400,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	12	12	11	11	217,500
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.029	227,200,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	955.20 UP	0.95	27,172,720	813,839,085.00
Industrial	4,615.18 DOWN	12.74	117,946,200	831,070,495.00
Holding Firms	2,238.02 UP	11.05	1,220,872,380	1,409,821,785.00
Property	1,697.77 UP	10.36	257,210,576	1,323,200,938.80
Service	1,854.75 UP	3.71	94,958,604	1,197,393,982.31
Mining & Oil	8,519.07 UP	92.10	888,696,100	644,809,645.00
All Shares Index	2,345.06 UP	3.64		
PSEi	3,788.26 UP	14.63		
		GRAND TOTALS	2,606,856,580	6,220,135,931.11

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Innovation pushed as economic growth driver

By Ronnel W. Domingo

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE PRIVATE sector and the academe have teamed up to craft a strategy to ramp up the country's competitiveness through innovation.

The Department of Science and Technology—along with tje Intellectual Property Organization Philippines, IBM Philippines and the Asian Institute of Management—announced they were holding a National Innovation Summit at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel on Nov. 26.

Science and Technology Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro said in a briefing yesterday that the main objective of the campaign was to put in place the building blocks that could accelerate innovation and spur growth across industries.

"Both codified and tacit knowledge must be harnessed to achieve an effective National Innovation System," Alabastro said.

"This includes joint research, partnerships, technology diffusion, and mobility of intellectual capital," she added.

Alabastro said working with private industries to craft the NIS was a significant step as the government took the role of creating an environment that allows industries to innovate competitively in the domestic and international markets.

She said further that the innovation campaign included an aggressive plan to support and guide the academe in designing new curricula to enhance the quality of education that would allow the county to meet emerging and new standards.

Federico M. Macaranas, an economist and executive director of the AIM Policy Center, explained that the NIS project identified human capital, industries and public policy as three key elements to achieve the goal.

"While the Philippines does not lack innovative (movements), the country is slipping and getting left behind in the competitiveness game," Macaranas said.

The professor said the NIS project was closely linked with the efforts of the National Competitiveness Council, which is also a collaboration between the government, academe and industries.

Adrian S. Cristobal Jr., IP Philippines director general, warned of an "invisible brain drain" in which the work of local inventors are being licensed and patented in other countries.

The sponsors of research and development done by Filipino innovators serve only to benefit the patent holders since the patent is a temporary monopoly given as an incentive to the owners of the innovation, Cristobal said.

"That is why we are using the summit as a venue to 'mainstream' the view that intellectual property rights is important for the growth of firms and the development of the country," he said.

"We are going to launch the national IP strategy during the summit," Cristobal said.

Also, Alabastro said the NIS project was taking off on the realization that the path to economic development involved policies on the development of science and technology and of human resources; creation and acquisition of technology, schemes to enhance competitiveness, tax incentives, strong protection of IP rights; financing support, marketing and related factors.

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PSVARE ANNUAL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 8 (Thursday)

Theme: Towards the Efficient Utilization of Energy for a Greener Future

11:30 am – 1:30 pm	PSVARE General Membership Meeting, Makati Skyline Restaurant, Mezzanine Flr. World Trade Center Metro Manila
1:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Forum on Climate Change

Resource Speakers:

Dr. Flaviana D. Hilario, Ph.D.
Weather Services Chief
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical & Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA)

Mr. Julian D. Amador
Dir. Environmental Mgmt. Bureau
Dep't. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Mr. Mario Marasigan,
Dir. Energy Utilization Mgmt. Bureau
Department of Energy (DOE)

Arch. Amado P. De Jesus, Jr., FUAP
Founding Chairman
Green Architecture Movement
United Architects of the Philippines

Engr. Laurentino R. Punsalan
Chairman, Climate Change Committee
PSVARE

Mr. Philip C.H. Yu
Dir. Environmental & Applications Engineering, Trane, USA

Moderator: Engr. Victorino V. Lahoz
Past President, PSVARE

By invitation only

TECHNICAL SEMINARS

NOVEMBER 9 (Friday)

SEMINAR ROOM A

9:30 am – 10:30 am	Introduction to ASHRAE 90.1 Standard
10:45 am – 12:30 pm	Impact on Pre-Filtration & Filter Selection for Energy Savings & Reduced Maintenance Expenditures *by Air Filters Philippines, Inc*
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm	Energy Performance of Thermal Energy Storage
2:30 pm – 3:15 pm	Water Treatment System for Green Buildings / Cooling Tower Approach *by Chem-ports Corp.*
3:30 pm – 4:15 pm	Practice in Maintenance & Servicing of HVAC

SEMINAR ROOM B

9:30 am – 10:30 am	No ODS & Low Global Warming Alternative for Air-conditioning & Refrigeration
10:45 am – 12:30 pm	ODS & GW For Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm	Commercial Refrigeration I: Fundamentals, Analysis and Solutions *by Sanyo Phils. Inc.*
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Use of Heat Pipe Technology for a Better Environment *by Mytown Commercial*
4:00 pm – 5:15 pm	HVAC Life Cycle Cost Analysis *by Concepcion –Carrier Air Conditioning Co.*

NOVEMBER 10 (Saturday)

SEMINAR ROOM A

9:30 am – 10:30 am	Indoor Air-Quality and Dehumidification *by Sigon Industrial Corp*
10:45 am – 12:30 pm	Multi-Split Systems and Variable Refrigerant Flow (Why So Popular These Days?) *by International Elevator & Equipment, Inc*
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm	Product Launching of MHI Single Split R410A Air-con *by Mit-Air, Inc.*
2:30 pm – 3:15 pm	Temporary Air-con (Installation & Dismantling) *by Messe & Hendel Corp. / Aircon Rental*

SEMINAR ROOM B

9:30 am – 10:30 am	Hydro Carbons as Drop-In Replacement
10:45 am – 12:30 pm	Recovery, Recycling and Retrofitting (3R's)

SHOW HOURS:
NOVEMBER 8: 11:00am - 6:00pm • NOVEMBER 9: 10:30am - 6:00pm
NOVEMBER 10: 10:30am - 5:00pm

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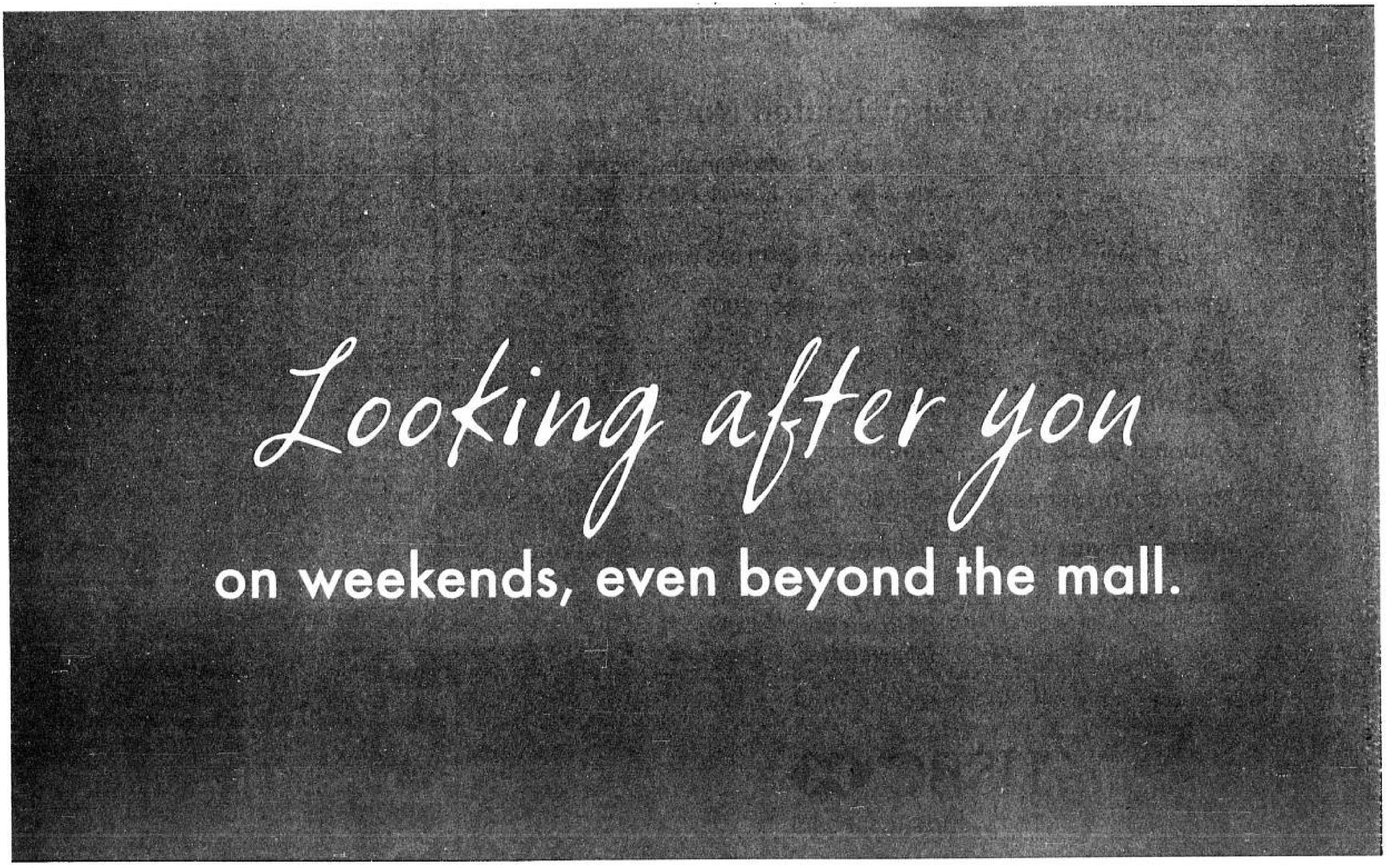
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The Mindanao business agenda

(Second of 2 parts)

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

THE 12-POINT RESOLUTION THAT THE business sector unanimously approved during the recently concluded Mindanao Business Conference in General Santos City indicates that the sector will always be an active partner of the government in developing Mindanao.

ICT as development agent

Truly believing that information and communications technology (ICT) is a catalyst for development, the business sector believes that it is an essential part of the overall roadmap for the island and that sufficient infrastructure facilities must be laid out for connectivity to be enhanced.

In this modern world, connectivity is as important as physical infrastructure because it allows real time interaction between and among players of a certain sector and even between the producer and the market. It has tremendously shrunk the world to just about a line between two people, even if the distance is between the north and south poles.

The cities of Davao, General Santos, Cagayan and Zamboanga are all poised to become the ICT hubs of Mindanao. These are the areas where connectivity is present along with a rich source of human capital to support ICT developments.

Power, power

Another major issue that the business sector raised during the event was finding ways to ensure sufficient and steady power supply in Mindanao.

Reliable power supply will not only lure more investments to the island, but also sustain growth.

It is not only necessary for government to ensure that power investments are placed in areas where needed most (in case of Mindanao it is in the southern part which consumes nearly one-half of the power produced in the island), it is also very important that power is brought to all the points, particularly to areas where development is slow.

We must remember that reliable power, like infrastructure facilities such as roads, is a key to development.

And according to the analysis of government agencies, like the National Power Corp. and the National Transmission Corp., Mindanao will run out of power within the next three years unless major decisions are made today.

It is good that the national government decided to set up the transmission line that will bring the excess power supply produced in the northern part of Mindanao, particularly from the 200-megawatt coal-fired plant in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, to the rest of the Mindanao grid.

But it is also necessary that new power plants are built in areas where they are needed. But this can only be done if investments in the sector get the much-needed support from government policymakers.

Efficient shipping services

Considering that Mindanao is a known producer of agricultural products, it is also important to find ways to bring these to the markets in easier and cheaper ways. It is currently more expensive to bring goods from Mindanao to Manila than to send them abroad.

This only shows two things, good port handling facilities are absent and that freight rates are also higher in the domestic shipping sector.

There have been so many attempts to persuade both the government and the industry to find common ground, both in reducing shipping rates and improving port handling facilities. These moves must be realized soon. Otherwise, business will continue to languish and development will not take off.

Improved agriculture

The government and the private sector must also pour more resources into the agriculture sector, considering that it is its strength, with Mindanao accounting for 40 percent of the country's agricultural output.

While it has improved with the implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, its implementation is very much wanting in terms of funding and technical support.

It is high time for both the government and the private sector to join hands and implement a private-sector led development roadmap for the sector. Otherwise, Mindanao's fertile land will eventually be barren and its seas will dry up.

The other points raised during the event include developing a competitive and sustainable Philippine tuna industry; strong private-public sector partnership to develop tourism; support for the education of the human resource in the region and an environmentally and socially sustainable mining industry.

Every year, the business sector formulates the Mindanao business agenda. We have long lived with rhetoric. It is high time for action.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is a strong and respected advocate for the development of the island. She is chair of Joji Ilagan Foundation, Philippine Call Centers Alliance, Mindanao Tech Voc Schools Association; and Mindanao representative, Export Development Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

Film hub to rise in Subic, Clark

By Riza T. Olchondra

FUNTASIA ENTERTAINMENT Philippines, an all-Filipino joint venture, has picked Subic and Clark as its movie production hubs to capitalize on the available film location sites in the two economic zones.

Catherine May Jimenez, Funtasia's assistant executive producer, said in a statement that the newly formed company envisions Universal Studios-type facilities with a combined area bigger than Hollywood.

"Location wise, Subic and Clark have many beautiful places and facilities. And as (Viva Entertainment president) Vic Del Rosario said, some of the sets made here are like those produced in Hollywood," Jimenez said.

Funtasia was formed by Viva International, a household name in Philippine film industry; Brains International Inc.; and Philippine Films Inc., which brought the production of "Apocalypse Now" and "Born on the 4th of July" to the Philippines.

According to the Funtasia blueprint, the Subic and Clark facilities will be gated studios to be managed by different companies. In particular, Subic will serve as a location for filming, studio offices, and a water sub-stage for shooting underwater scenes.

The tank for water sub-stage will be an environment-friendly, open sea-type with an area of 3,000 square meters.

In Clark, Funtasia will be using the Sandigan Expo and other historical attractions, as well as the global city and fun zone.

Jimenez revealed that Funtasia already has three foreign movie production outfits on its list of prospective clients, aside from companies engaged in television and video production.

"These three foreign outfits are so eager to start their location shooting in the Philippines, that is why we were in a hurry to scout for the most suitable locations in the country," she said.

Shares close 0.4% higher

From page B1

days. Investors are largely taking a wait-and-see stance as oil prices reached new highs," he said.

The key index failed again to break above the key resistance of 3,800 points because of such nervousness, Tan said.

Given the commodities' record-breaking run, Tan said the central bank may resist the temptation to cut key interest rates when it holds its policy meeting on Nov. 15.

Local interest rates may be kept steady for the rest of the year despite benign inflation and the US Federal Reserve's further rate cut of 25 basis points last week, he said. *AFP*

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Item	Approved Budget	Contract Period
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UPLB-163-07: Security services (60 security guards)	P 9,468,000	Jan – Dec 2008
UPLB-164-07: Supply and Installation of AM Transmitter	P 2,000,000	N/A

Interested parties may secure the bidding documents from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat (BAC-Sec) Office at the International House complex, UP Los Baños. The bid forms may also be downloaded either from UPLB website (http://admin.uplb.edu.ph/bac) or PhilGEPS (https://www.philgeps.net/GEPS). Bidding fee shall be required from the bidders payable upon securing of the bid documents from the BAC-Sec Office or upon submission of eligibility requirements or on the day of submission/opening of bids.

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Bid Documents	Starts on November 12, 2007 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	BAC-SEC
Pre-Bid Conference	November 15, 2007 9:00 AM	BAC-SEC
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	On or before November 27, 2007 9:00 AM - 5:00PM	BAC-SEC
Submission/Opening of Bids	November 29, 2007 10:00 AM	BAC-SEC

The UPLB reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Inquiries may be forwarded to Alexis C. del Rosario, Chair, BAC-Secretariat at telephone nos. (49) 536-8419 or 536-8420.

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BDO-EPCI launches tier 2 notes offer worth P5B

Proceeds to be used to fund aggressive expansion plan

By Doris C. Dumlao

RETAIL TYCOON HENRY SY'S Banco de Oro-EPCI has launched the public offering of at least P5 billion in subordinated debt or tier 2 notes, the merged bank's first fund-raising activity.

In an investors forum yesterday, BDO said the 10-year notes would yield 7 percent per year until the fifth year or in 2012, during which the bank could opt to pay off investors.

"This capital-raising exercise is integral to our strategic plan to build up BDO-EPCI. The proceeds will be used to fund our growth," bank president Nestor Tan said.

A call option gives the issuer the right but not the obligation to buy the security at a specified price within a specified time period. If BDO would not exercise its call option after the fifth year, interest rates for the remaining term would be increased by 150 basis points.

Proceeds from the offering, which will start today and end on Nov. 16, will be used to finance the bank's aggressive expansion plan for the next few years.

Tan said the proceeds from the issuance would also give the merged bank the flexibility to refinance the $200 million notes issued by the former EPCI Bank which carried a call option by mid-2008.

Although BDO earlier obtained the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas approval for the flotation of as much as P10 billion, Tan said the bank would like to raise the amount in tranches.

British bank HSBC was mandated as the sole lead arranger of the issuance.

The notes will be issued in denominations of P500,000 and increments of P100,000.

In the first half of the year, the merged bank reported a 25-percent year-on-year increase in net income on a consolidated basis to P3.18 billion from P2.5 billion in the same period last year.

First Gen eyes eight Napocor power plants

By Abigail L. Ho

IN A BID TO DOUBLE ITS DIrectly owned generation capacity to 1,968 megawatts (MW) by 2011, listed firm First Gen Corp. is looking at acquiring eight National Power Corp. assets from this year to 2009.

First Gen chief finance officer Francis Giles Puno said in a presentation to stockholders yesterday that the company was considering bidding for the 192.5-MW Palinpinon, 700-MW Tiwi-MakBan and 112-MW Tongonan geothermal facilities; the 175-MW Ambuklao-Binga and 246-MW Angat hydropower assets; and the decommissioned 850-MW Sucat thermal power plant.

Together with partners Spalmare Holdings BV and Prime Terracota Holdings Corp., First Gen would also be bidding for the government's remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp.

By acquiring a majority stake in PNOC-EDC would mean the addition of 1,100 MW of steam and 700 MW of power to First Gen's portfolio, Puno said.

"We plan to grow by bidding for more assets that are up for privatization and by doing more new projects. From 2007-2009, there are eight scheduled bidding activities that will give us more opportunity to grow. We're also in constant lookout for projects in the private sector that we can acquire," he said.

He said the company would likewise be embarking on the expansion of its existing plants as well as tying up with other power generators for the establishment of new capacity.

Greenfield projects are also a possibility, he added.

With the nearing of the 2010-2011 critical period in Luzon, however, First Gen senior vice president Ricardo Tantoco said it would be easier to pursue expansion projects than to put up totally new generation facilities.

For its expansion program, First Gen has lined up the $30-million upgrade of the 112-MW Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower facility and the $578-million addition of 385 MW of capacity to the 735-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power plant, in partnership with plant operator Team Energy.

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OMB Warns of Series of Operations to Hit Key Cities In and Around the Metro

The Optical Media Board (OMB) intensified its vigilance against copyright violators by conducting a motorcade in key business locations around the Metro. This served as a warning to all copyright violators that the strengthened campaign of the OMB is a genuine movement against software piracy targeting all forms of business establishments all of which are expected to be in full compliance of the IPR and OMB law.

Agents from the Intelligence Inspection Division of the OMB joined the motorcade wherein business establishments in Ayala Town Center in Alabang and SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City were paid a surprise visit. Stern spot checks were conducted to verify licensed softwares with computer units loaded with unlicensed software seized. Thousands of illegal copies of business software were seized from 5th Avenue Telecom in a mall in Mandaluyong.

The surprise arrival of OMB agents created a staggering alarm among owners of inspected business establishments who were warned to legalize any unlicensed software that they have or face adverse consequences including closure of business and possible imprisonment. Software piracy is a violation of the IP Code of the Philippines and is punishable of up to nine years imprisonment and a fine of up to 1.5 million pesos.

"The impact of software piracy is greater than the effect of other counterfeit DVDs such as movies and computer games. Business software has a greater scope since it is an indispensable productivity tool in any organization today. The consequences of a rampant software piracy include the pull out of export and trade quotas. Accordingly, foreign businesses don't give 100% respect to our IPR law. Software piracy results to lost opportunities to the various industries of the country and lost job opportunities for out IT professionals," said Chairman Edu Manzano of the OMB.

The OMB is determined to put an end to the rampant piracy in the country. "This is just the beginning of a stronger fight against piracy. The presence of the OMB in the Metro is a clear indication that piracy is no longer tolerated in the country. In addition to retail stores and I-cafes tolerating this blatant disregard for Intellectual Property, we will also be checking on companies belonging to different industries to determine whether they are conducting their businesses lawfully," warned Atty. Rosendo Meneses, Executive Director of the OMB.

As the OMB keeps to its promise of eradicating the menace of piracy in the Philippines, the team is enjoining the public to support its efforts in curbing software piracy the country. "The public plays a crucial role in combating the problems of software piracy by being vigilant, educated and by sending in reports of software copyright violators," added Meneses.

Agents of the Optical Media Board inspect a computer unit in one of the business establishments visited in Alabang during the recent motorcade. The operation resulted in hundreds of seized pirated business software across the Metro.

Operations conducted by the NBI resulted to the seizure of a total of 29 computers loaded with unlicensed software and 15 pirated installers amounting to 650,000 pesos.

Hundreds of pirated business softwares were seized in a series of operations conducted by the Optical Media Board

NBI scours key cities in Metro Manila for software pirates

Manila, Philippines (October 30, 2007) - Operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) simultaneously raided four business establishments in different cities in Metro Manila including Paranaque, Muntinlupa, Makati and Manila for allegedly selling computers loaded with pirated or unlicensed software.

The raided establishments included Compex Sucat Inc. located at the 3/F Building A of SM City Sucat; Brochiere Computers in Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City; Pantertech located at the 3/F ERM Bldg, Bangkal Evangelista St. Makati City and Save on Surplus (SOS) located at the 4th level of SM City Manila.

"To attract more customers, the said stores were allegedly offering value-add services to customers which included free installation of business software on to the computers that were sold. Unknown to the customers, the software installed to the computers bought from these stores are unlicensed copies and are therefore pirated," said Atty. Elfren Meneses, head of the NBI-IPRD.

During the raids, NBI agents inspected computers sold in the stores, which was duly witnessed by store attendants. All computers that were found loaded with pirated or unlicensed software were confiscated including pirated software installers. All seized items would be used as evidence against the raided stores.

A total of 29 computers loaded with unlicensed software and 15 pirated installers amounting to 650,000 pesos were confiscated during the raids.

"The NBI is fully committed to wiping out software piracy in the country. Stores selling computers loaded with pirated software do not only dupe their customers but also themselves. Instead of earning more through the sale of legitimate software, getting involved in software piracy would only lead to them losing their business," Atty. Meneses added.

Software piracy is a violation of the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines and is punishable of up to nine years imprisonment and a fine of up to 1.5 million pesos.

Together with the Optical Media Board (OMB) and the Philippine National Police in a unified effort of the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT), the NBI aims to curb software piracy in the Philippines.

More information on the activities of the PAPT is available at www.papt.org.ph.

CMMA Honors
Communication Exemplars

XIX The Catholic Mass Media Awards

Out of over 850 entries from around the country, 54 stood out and won distinction as exemplars for values communication at the 29th Catholic *Mass Media* Awards Night held at the Assumption College's *Marie Eugenie* Theater of the Assumption (METTA) in San Lorenzo Village, October 25.

These outstanding works and individuals came from the Student, Radio, Print, Advertising, Cinema, Television, Internet, Website, Book and Music sectors throughout the country and were chosen by panels of judges represented by the academe, the mass media and the religious communities.

Honoring the Servant's Servants

Presented with the Jaime L. Cardinal Sin SERVIAM Awards in the Individual Category were Msgr. Sabino A. Vengco Jr. of CMN-Asia and Bo Sanchez of the Shepherd's Voice Publications, while the Catechetical Media Network (CMN)-Asia received the same honor for the Institutional Category. Fr. John Carroll SJ and Fr. Neil Guillemette SJ, received the Special Citation and the Lifetime Book Achievement Award, respectively.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales together with Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, CMMA Chairman & President presented this year's SERVIAM Awards.

Three-time winner *Mom's Morning Chat* of *Mom's Radio* – Southern Broadcasting Corporation was elevated to the Hall of Fame for Best Educational Radio Program.

> *"In the end, it is the content of the message that really matters..."*

DFA Secretary Lauds CMMA Efforts

Speaking before the assembly as Guest of Honor, Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo stressed that the "noble task of honoring values-oriented mass media works must be sustained," to encourage practitioners to promote much-needed moral values in a technologically-driven age.

"In the end, it is the content of the message that really matters whether it uplifts the human spirit to reach for the stars, to dream of things that never were and to become more than what already is," he further added.

A *Message* of Thanksgiving

Citing the one instance when the Lord Jesus Christ "wrote" upon the ground which consequently aborted the stoning of an adulterous woman, *Manila Archbishop* and CMMA's Honorary Chairman Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales gave a solemn message that underscored the important role of the mass media in shaping positive social opinion.

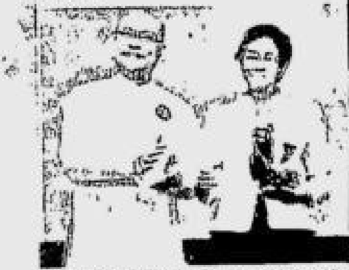
He further thanked the organizers, jurors and participants for their continuing service in the ever-important role of "forming, informing and reforming society" in ways that are genuine and relevant to our times.

La Salle Greenhills Grade School brings home the Best Student Organ award.

CMMA Honorary Chairman Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales exhorts mass media to continue its role in "forming, informing and reforming society".

Mel Tiangco & Rey Langit present the awards to winners of Best in Print Category. Her TV programs "Magpakailanman" and "24 Oras" were selected the Best Drama and Best News Program, respectively.

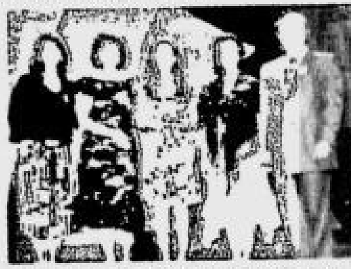
CMN Asia's delegation, led by Renato Carvajal, receives the Serviam Award for the Institutional Category from Cardinal Rosales and Amb. Antonio L. Cabangon-Chua.


ABS-CBN's Maria Ressa receives the Best in TV News Magazine for "The Correspondents".

GMA 7's Jessica Soho caps the Best TV News Magazine award from Bishop Honesto Ongtioco for her program "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho".

Msgr. Sabino Vengco and Bo Sanchez pose with Cardinal Rosales and Amb. Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, upon receiving the Serviam Award for the Individual Category.

Guest of Honor & Speaker DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo lauds CMMA's efforts for championing the cause of values communication.


Mom's Morning Chat-Mom's Radio, led by SBN and Estima executives, garners the 2007 Hall of Fame Award for Best Educational Program

Actress Gina Pareño accepts the award for the movie "Kubrador" which won in the Best Film category.

DZMM's Angelo Palmones receives the award for Best Business Program and Best News Program from Joanne Rae Ramirez and Consul General Edward Fereira.

29th Ceremonies Well-Attended

Top media personalities Maria Ressa, Mel Tiangco, Rey Langit, Korina Sanchez, Henry Omaga-Diaz, Joanne Ramirez, Angelo Palmones, Benjamin Ramos, Juan Dayang, Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan and Gabe Mercado were among the award presenters. Also on hand were TV and film directors Bert de Leon and Mark Meily; business executives Antonio Henson, Feorelio Bote, Philip Ella Juico, Angelito Pagayon; Consul Gen. Edward Fereira and Prof. Juan Ramos who gave out category awards.

Other award givers included members of the religious and the clergy led by Bishop Honesto F. Ongtioco, Fr. Rufino Sescon, Fr. Joselito Buenafe, Fr. Aristole Dy SJ, Fr. John Brillantes, Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite, Fr. Roy Rosales, Sr. Shalimar Rubia and Serviam awardee Sr. Mary Pilar Versoza RGS.

Celebrity performers top-billed by Serviam Awardee Ms. Jolina Magdangal, Kea Chan, Reuben Laurente, AKA, Makisig, Buganda Performing Arts and the Mandaluyong Choir rendered song and dance numbers adding to the excitement of the award ceremonies.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer's representatives smile victoriously at the camera as they received six awards for Best Entertainment Column, Best Opinion Column, Best Investigative Report, Best Editorial Cartoon, Best News Photograph and Best News Coverage, and two Special Citations for Investigative Report. Shown are correspondent Nestor Burgos Jr., reporter Alcuin Papa, desk editor Leti Boniol, PDI chair Marixi Prieto, Readers' Advocate Loma Kalaw-Tirol, reporter Volt Contreras and photographer Edwin Bacasmas.

News Anchors Korina Sanchez and Henry Omaga- Diaz announce winners for Advertising.

2007 CMMA WINNERS

PRINT
Best Business Column
Bull Sheet, Bull Market by Wilson Lee Flores
The Philippine Star
Best Children's Magazine
The Bread Basket by CMN-Asia, Inc
Rex Publishing
Best Entertainment Column
Life Lesson from Mission Impossible III Star Tom Cruise by Wilson Lee Flores
The Philippine Star and *Viewfinder*
by Nestor U. Torre, Philippine Daily Inquirer
Best Opinion Column
Pinoy Kasi by Michael L. Tan/Philippine Daily Inquirer and *New Beginnings*
by Bum Tenorio, The Philippine Star
Best Special Feature
Looking Glass by Rose King, Mimi Martin & Nick Pichay, The Big C Magazine
Best Short Story
Habang Buhay Bata by Almar T. Gallero/ Gospel Komiks Magazine for Young People and
Ang Kamot ni Dara by Renato C. Vibiesca
Jesus Magazine
Best Youth Magazine
Gospel Komiks (Collector's Edition) by CFA
Best Community/Parish Newspaper
The World Mission Magazine by Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus
World Mission Publishing
Best Investigative Report
The State of Philippine Education
by Fernando del Mundo, Volt Contreras
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Best Editorial Cartoon
Rights of the Child by Jess Abrera
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Best News Photograph
Father and Child by Edwin Bacasmas
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Best News Coverage
Oil Spill in Guimaras could reach Boracay
by Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Leila Salaveria
Philippine Daily Inquirer

MUSIC
Best Album – Religious
Believe Like A Child by Star Recording, Inc.
Best Album – Secular
Pop Virtuosity by Reuben Laurente
D'Concorde Recording Corp.
Best Music Video
Power to Unite by World Impact Communications

CINEMA
Best Picture
Kubrador by MLR Films

INTERNET
Best Website
www.preacherinbluejeans.com
by Shepherd's Voice Radio TV Foundation
and www. *cfamedia.com* by Communications Foundation for Asia

RADIO
Best Drama Program
Maalaala Mo Kaya sa DZMM Radyo 630
Best News Program
Radyo Patrol Alas Onse Y Media
by DZMM Radyo Patrol 630
Best Public Service Program
Sugpuin Ang Karupsyon by DZRH – MBC
Best Educational Program
Sulyap Kultura by DZRM 1278 Radyo Magasin,
DZRP Radyo Pilipinas
(Overseas Radio)-Phil. Broadcasting Service
Best Entertainment Program
Wan Dey Isang Araw by DZAS AM 702 Khz
Best Business Program
Radyo Negosyo by DZMM Radyo Patrol 630

TELEVISION
Best News Program
24 Oras by GMA 7
Best Comedy Program
Goin' Bulilit by ABS-CBN
Best Sports Show
The Sports List by National Broadcasting Network (NBN 4)
Best Entertainment Program
Sharon by ABS-CBN
Best Talk Show
Media in Focus by ANC 21
Best Adult Educational Program
Philippine Agenda by GMA 7
Best Children's Program
Mga Kuwento Ni Lola Basyang by GMA 7
Best News Magazine
Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho by GMA 7 and
The Correspondents by ABS-CBN
Best Drama Program
Magpakailanman by GMA 7
Best TV Special
Sa Kambas ng Lipunan by ABS-CBN
Best Public Service Program
Wish Ko Lang! by GMA 7

ADVERTISING
Best Outdoor Ad – Branded
Guimaras Hair and Comb, (PIANDRE) TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno
Best Outdoor Ad- Public Service
Broccolli (KLIMA) by TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno
Best Print Ad- Public Service
Mother's Day (Pro-Life Phils) by DM9 JaimeSyfu
Best Print Ad- Branded
Book Titles (National Bookstore)
by Creative Concepts, Inc.
Best Radio Ad – Public Service
Power to Unite (The Nat'l. Catholic Family Bible Quiz) by World Impact Communications
Best TV Ad – Public Service
Education (UNICEF) by TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno
Best TV Ad- Branded
"Father" and *"Son" (SMART Communications)*
by DM9 JaymeSyfu

JAIME CARDINAL SIN
2007 Catholic Book Awards
Best Emerging Author
New Every Morning, New Every Day
by Domie Guzman, SSP,St. Paul's Publishing
Best Book in Theology and Liturgy
Prusisyon: Paghahanda at Pagdiriwang by Michael de los Reyes, Claretian Publications
Best Book in Spirituality and Ministry
Church, State, and Civil Society in Post-Authoritarian Philippines by Antonio F. Moreno, SJ, Ateneo de Manila University Press
Best Book in Family Life, Youth, and Children
Parable of the Elder Brother by Johnny C. Go, SJ, Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc.

STUDENT CMMA
Student Organ – Grade School
The Greenery by La Salle Greenhills
Best Student Organ – High School
The Manresan by Manresa School and
The Judenites by St. Jude Catholic School
Best Student Organ – College
L Magazine by De La Salle, Lipa City
Best TV Production
Pasan by Polytechnic University of the Phils.
Best Short Film
Metro by Colegio de San Juan de Letran
Best TV Ad Public Service
Kamay by St. Paul University, QC
Best Print Ad Public Service
Lamb of God by Lyceum of the Phils. University

SPECIAL CITATIONS
MUSIC
Music Video
Ehemplo by EHEM/ Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc.

ADVERTISING
TV Ad - Public Service
Sa Isa Kong Boto – Teacher
by GMA Network, Inc.
TV Ad-Branded
Graduate (Western Union)
byJimenez Basic
Radio Ad-Public Service
Bawal (UNICEF) by BBDO Guerrero Ortega

TELEVISION
Business Program/Feature
Amiga by ABS-CBN / RNG Bacolod
Drama Series
Super Inggo by ABS-CBN

RADIO
Business Program / Feature
Business Matters by DZFE-FM (FEBC)
Drama Program
Huwag Mangamba by DZRV Radio Veritas

PRINT
Children's Magazine
Super Benj! by The Master's Workhouse, Inc.
Comic Strip
Tunay na Dakila by Ben Gregory Aquino
The Bread Basket
Youth Magazine
Word & Life by Word & Life Publication
Local Community/Parish Newspaper
Tulay Fortnightly by Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran, Inc.
Investigative Report
The Guimaras Oil Spill by Leila B. Salaveria, Philippine Daily Inquirer and
Filipino Sex Prisoner Thought She was in France
by Gemma Luz Corotan Phil. Daily Inquirer
News Photograph
A Long Journey Home by Manny Marcelo
The Phil. Star

INQUIRER PLDT SM DEPARTMENT STORE PAGCOR MANILA BULLETIN THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER Albergus CATERING Jollibee
BPI Foundation, Inc. Partnership & Commitment MEGAWORLD BusinessMirror STAR Philippine Airlines Enchanted Kingdom

SOLON MADRID DEMETRIOU, SR.

Tabaco City, Albay

*has peacefully joined his Creator and beloved wife, **Josefina**,
on November 7, 2007 at the age of 84.*

His bereaved children: **Antonio** (✝) & **Marie**, **Harriet**, **Jennifer**, **Solon, Jr.** and **Vangie**; grandchildren: **Christine** & **Niño**, **Michelle** & **Michael**, **Alexander Philip**, **Joann**, **John Paul** & **Sheila**; great-grandchildren: **John Robert Solon**, **Carlos Antonio**, **Martina Angela** & **Miguel**, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will be at the family residence at Bgy. Fatima, Tabaco City, Albay.

Interment will be on Monday, November 12, 2007 at the Demetriou Mausoleum, Tabaco Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. concelebrated Mass at the St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Tabaco City, Albay.

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or info@nishinmetal.com or call: 532-8885 up to 86

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following personnel are no longer connected with **GVRC Placement Services, Inc.**

1. EMMA B. TINDOC
2. TERESITA P. BOISER
3. RUSSIENI I. GO
4. IAN SEP C. SUAYBAGUIO
5. CARLOS P. PELONGCO
6. PERLA H. GABATBAT

Any transactions entered into the above named persons will not be honored by this company.

(PDI-November 8, 2007)

---

*"Be at rest once more, O my soul,
For the Lord has been good to me."
Psalm 116:7*

Our Dearly Beloved

ENGR. NESTOR TANJUTCO Y MORELOS
"TATAY"

*Now rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord.
He joined our Creator on the 6th day of November, 2007
at the age of 82.*

His loving wife Fely, children Marian & Rey, Terry & Robert and Jun & Ruby, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

*His remains lie in state at Chapel B, La Funeraria Paz,
G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
Cremation will be on the 11th day of
November 2007, 11 o'clock a.m.*

---

*"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith..."*
2 Timothy 4:7

RODOLFO ALIANZA JAMORALIN, SR.

of Sorsogon, Bicol

*and a retired officer of Quezon Institute
joined our God and his wife **Pacita**,
in His grace on October 28, 2007
at San Jose, California, USA, at the age of 84.*

His bereaved children, **Jesse, Carmen, Rodolfo Jr., Cynthia, Donato, Barry, Mila** and **Ites;** his children in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie in state at Faith Chapel, Don Bosco, Makati until Nov. 9, 2007 and at Sorsogon, Bicol on Nov. 10-11, 2007.

His final resting place will be at the Shrine of Divine Mercy Ossuary, Mandaluyong City on Nov. 13, 2007 after the 6 pm mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

Case No. CV 0707098
Dept. No. II

IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHITE PINE

IN THE MATTER OF THE
PARENTAL RIGHTS AS TO

CHARLOTTE MACARANAS
Minor child.

NOTICE

TO: TEOTIMO DIZON, father of the above-named minor; and to all persons claiming to be the father of this minor;

You are hereby notified that there has been filed in the above-entitled court a petition praying for the termination of parental rights over the above-named minor person, and that the petition has been set for hearing before this Court, at the courtroom thereof, in the County of White Pine, State of Nevada, on the 26th day of November, 2007, at 11:00 a.m., at which time and place you are required to be present if you desire to oppose the petition.

DATED this 13 day of September, 2007.

DONNA M. BATH
CLERK OF COURT

By: Pat Campbell
Deputy Clerk

(PDI – October 14, 21, Nov. 8 & 15, 2007)

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Univ. of the Phils. B4
ZAJ Advstg. B4

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

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Death Notice

Patrick Joseph "P.J." A. Pineda
(Nov, 8, 1982 - Nov. 4, 2007)
His remains lie in state at Bahay Karmelo,
Mt. Carmel Church Proj. 6, Q.C.
Interment will be on November. 10, 2007,
at Sto. Domingo Cemetery Minalin, Pampanga
after the 8:00 A.M. Mass at Mt. Carmel Church.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Tel. Nos. : 712-3001 • 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Engr. Nestor M. Tanjutco	Chapel-B	11-Nov-07 11:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory
Victoria C. Miranda	Chapel-8	after the 8:00 a.m. Mass 08-Nov-07	Manila Memorial Park-Parañaque

Coconut exports up 55.7% in July

7-mo level lower than year-ago figure

By Amy R. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S COCONUT EXPORTS jumped 55.7 percent in July to $95.6 million due largely to improved prices of coconut oil, according to official data from the Philippine Coconut Authority.

In July 2006, exports of coconut products amounted to $61.38 million.

According to the PCA, the volume of exports during the month reached 145,800 metric tons in copra terms, 13 percent higher than the 129,025 MT in the same month last year.

Coconut oil exports rose 14 percent to 73,302 MT from 64,316 MT, while copra meal shipments climbed 19.7 percent to 32,770 MT from 27,367 MT.

Oleochemicals exports were up by 51.5 percent to 10,934 MT in copra terms from 7,215 MT.

In contrast, shipments of desiccated coconut fell 6.1 percent to 11,975 MT from 12,756 MT.

Other products that recorded decline in exports were coco shell charcoal 2,269 MT (down 44.1 percent from last year's 4,056 MT); activated carbon, 2,499 MT (down 5.2 percent from 2,635 MT), and fresh coconuts, 41 MT (down 88.7 percent from 360 MT).

For the first seven months of the year, total exports reached 859,322 MT in copra terms.

However, this is still lower by 31.3 percent than the 1.25 million MT recorded in the same period last year.

In the first seven months, exports of coconut oil reached 431,506 MT; copra meal, 222,698 MT; desiccated coconut, 76,975 MT; oleochemicals, 55,384 MT; coco shell charcoal 12,602 MT; activated carbon 15,605 MT; glycerin 8,354 MT; fresh coconuts 493 MT, and other coco products, 15,618 MT.

The PCA said Europe was the country's leading market destination for coconut oil in July, recording sales volume of 29,645 MT. The US came in second, accounting for 27,790 MT.

Total coconut oil exports during the month consisted of 53,119 MT of crude coconut oil (CNO), 12,644 MT cochin oil (refined, bleached oil) and 7,539 MT RBD oil.

Korea remained the top importer of Philippine copra meal, with purchases reaching 18,114 MT. 55.3 percent of total exports, in July.

Vietnam was second with 4,168 MT (12.7 percent), followed by Japan with 4,000 MT (12.2 percent). Other buyers included Singapore (3,000 MT), United Kingdom (3,000 MT) and Taiwan (489 MT).

As for coco shell charcoal, Japan continued as this product's primary destination, accounting for 1,333 MT. Other buyers were China (542 MT), Korea (260 MT), Hong Kong (134 MT).

Tax amnesty law intention explained

By Michelle V. Remo

THE AUTHOR OF THE TAX Amnesty Law said banks owing the government billions of pesos in documentary stamp taxes were not qualified for amnesty.

Rep. Danilo Suarez explained that prior to the passage of the tax amnesty bill, the Supreme Court had already decided on some of the cases filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue against banks over unpaid DSTs on special savings accounts.

The high court ruled in favor of the BIR, saying that special savings account was covered by the DST.

The Tax Amnesty Law, which took effect in May this year, allows delinquent taxpayers to apply for amnesty. The law, however, disqualifies individuals whose tax-delinquency cases have already been decided by the court.

However, there are cases of the same nature involving other banks that are still pending in the court.

"Those whose cases have already been decided upon by the court are not qualified for amnesty. It would be unfair if other members of the (banking) industry were made to pay the taxes, while the others will escape it," Suarez said.

Suarez's statement was made to shed light on the BIR's tax dispute against some banks.

The passage of the tax amnesty bill has raised the question on whether it was legal for the BIR to pursue the tax cases against banks if they apply for amnesty.

Because of the lenient provisions of the law, banks are expected to avail themselves of the amnesty.

Suarez admitted that the Tax Amnesty Law was not clear if delinquent taxpayers whose cases were similar with those already been decided upon by the court were still qualified for the amnesty.

He, however, said that it was not the intention of the law to cover these delinquent taxpayers.

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VEUVE Clicquot's wine estate in Champagne, France

BRUNO Yvon

Divine intervention and vintage champagne

Veuve Clicquot's regional marketing director Bruno Yvon serves the brand's offerings and insists sparkling wines they are not

By Alex Y. Vergara

CHAMPAGNE IS CLASSIFIED as sparkling wine, but not all sparkling wines can be called champagnes. And while all non-vintage champagnes are man-made, only God can "make" vintage champagne.

These were just some of the nuggets of wisdom Bruno Yvon, regional marketing director of Veuve Clicquot, Krug and Ruinart estates and wines, shared with guests at a recent formal dinner he hosted at Makati Shangri-La's Red.

This time around, the Hong Kong-based Frenchman and frequent visitor to Manila focused on Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin's vintage and non-vintage champagnes, which he paired with a four-course meal consisting of Poached and Pan-fried Foie Gras, Medallion of Palawan Lobsters, Crepinette of French Pigeons, and an assortment of tart, mouse and sherbet.

Because of their relatively robust yet refreshing flavors and aromas—ranging from toasty to spicy, from fruity to biscuity—Veuve Clicquot's vintage champagnes from 1999 and 2002 were able to hold their own and complement a traditional French dinner that would normally have required dry, full-bodied red wines.

Both vintages were composed of a basic blend of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier. In the case of Veuve Clicquot's 2002 vintage, 15 percent of it consists of red wine from the house's Bouzy vineyard, which explains its rosy color.

Aged longer

"These vintages are aged longer, which accounts for their more complex colors and aromas," said Yvon. "It doesn't mean that you have to have a different set of champagne for dinner. What we're telling you is since these champagnes were made from great wines, they also go well with good food."

Cocktails, where the featured drink was Veuve Clicquot's non-vintage Yellow Label, preceded the dinner.

Red wines, of course, get their color as well as their full-bodied flavor and aging potential from the skin of grapes. These qualities (including the skin) are largely absent in white wines, which are prized more for their fruity and refreshing qualities.

But all wines, whether red or white, basically undergo a fermentation process in big, open vats. Such a condition allows carbon dioxide—a byproduct of fermentation—to escape in the form of harmless bubbles.

Second fermentation

Champagne is made from white wine, which undergoes a second fermentation thanks to added yeasts. Rather than place it in open vats, Veuve Clicquot's cellar masters store the yeast- and sugar-fortified white wine in sealed bottles.

"This time, carbon dioxide is locked in the bottle during fermentation," Yvon explained. "The trapped bubbles soon transform plain white wine to sparkling wine."

In the process, yeasts are also fermented in the bottle leaving the sparkling wine with a mélange of flavors, which ranges from toasty to cheesy, from nutty to caramelly.

Again, the outcome depends on how the cellar master mixes various wines from dif-

DIVINE/ C2

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Patillas, Atbp.: Nov. 10 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Pastillas de Leche, Ube, Langka, Macapuno. Yema, Cookies & Cream Polvoron. P900.
Kakanin: Nov. 10 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cassava Cake, Pichi-Pichi, Cuchinta, Maja Nangka, Putong Puti, Bibingkang Malagkit, Homemade Salabat, Bonus: Commercial Bibingka. P900.
Holiday Steaks and Roast Galore: (by: popular request) Nov. 17 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Beef Tournados w/ Mustard Sauce, Crispy Salmon w/ Siciliana Sauce, Pan Roasted Rosemary Chicken w/ Basil Mashed Potatoes, Pan Jus, Roasted Pork w/ Applesauce & Rice Pilaf & Osso Bucco Steak including lecture on preparation of basic steak sauce, marinades for roast beef & proper techniques of grilling. P1,500.
7-Days Curing Ham & Atchara: Nov. 24 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Pork Ham, Chicken Ham, Chinese Pata Ham, Assorted Pickles & Atcharas. P900.
Edible Food Gifts: Nov. 24 (Sat) 2 - 6 p.m. Food for the Gods, Boat Tarts, Mini Fruit Cake w/ Fondant Icing, Cinnamon Bread, Stolen, Chutney, Paté. P900.
Desserts & Sweets: Dec. 1 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cathedral Window, Mango Ice Box Cake, Buko Pandan Salad, Lemon Squares, Apple Nut Crumble. P900.
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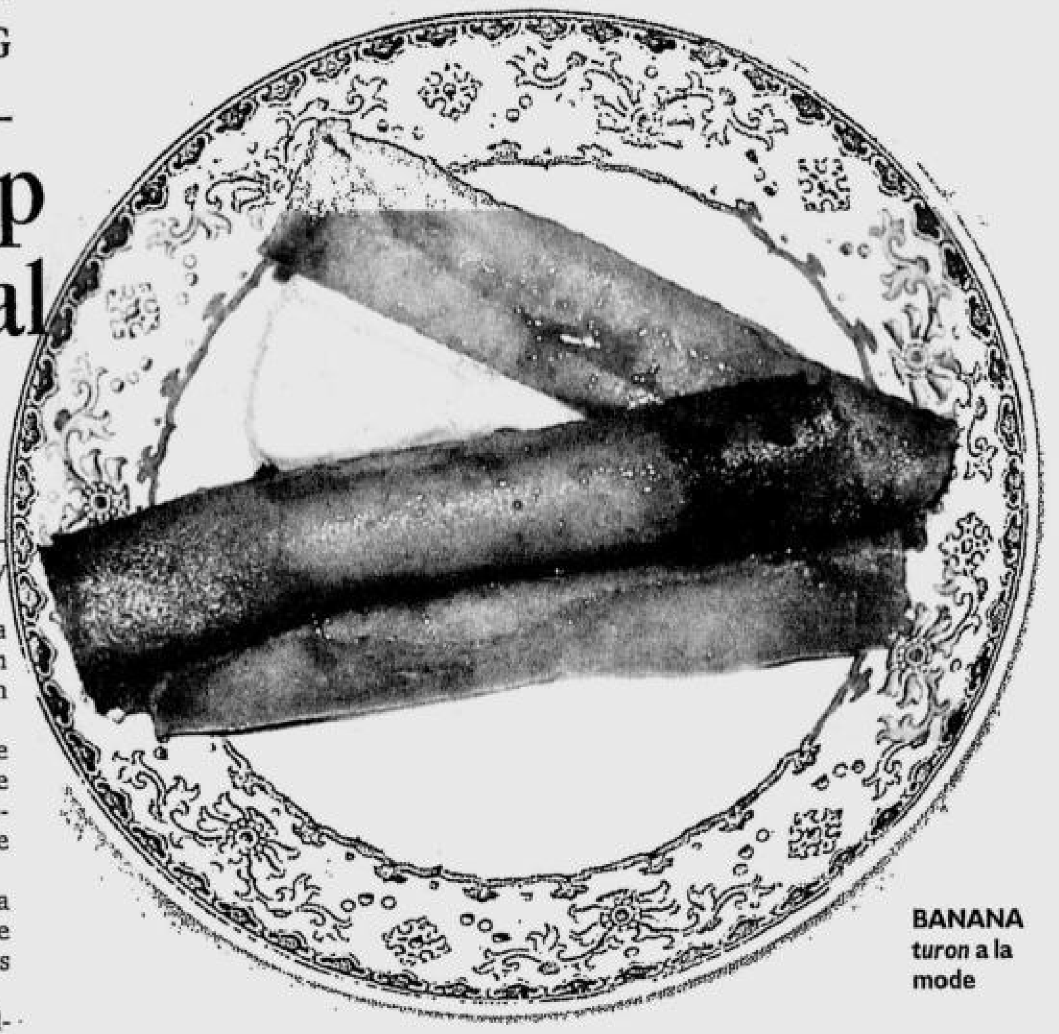
COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

Whipping up a Pinoy meal in Iowa



BANANA *turon* **a la mode**

SO WHAT'S FILIPINO FOOD LIKE?

The question was begging to be answered in Iowa. Not with words but by cooking.

Thank goodness we had with us Myrna Segismundo, a chef who could decide on the menu and, of course, take the helm in the kitchen.

Myrna and I were actually glad because we could test if some of the recipes in the "Kulinarya" book we are part of (still ongoing) could be done in this neck of the woods.

It was great to discover that even in Iowa there were Asian stores. The first one we went to in the capital city of Des Moines was more grocery than store.

We were delighted that we could buy Filipino brands of vinegar, soy sauce and instant *sinigang* mix, very basic things we needed to give our Iowa hosts their first taste of Filipino cooking.

Owned by a Thai, the store carried whatever the Asian community needed, including native brooms, *bilao*, *alugbati* (Ceylon spinach), *pancit* canton and international phone cards that were so cheap.

We bought according to the menu Myrna prepared. We were going to do *sinigang na baboy* because Iowa is pork country. Chicken and pork *adobo* had to be there. *Pancit* had to be included.

We urged Myrna to do her now famous *turon* for dessert. But if *turon* was there, should we also have fried *lumpia* as our vegetable dish?

'Lumpia' on the menu

What made up our minds was the sight of three people wrapping some vegetable *lumpia* in one corner of the grocery. We guessed that the trio was the owner's mother and children.

The *lumpia* contents were very much like our own—julienne vegetables of carrots and cabbage and what looked like chopped shrimps.

Myrna said it would be less work if we bought some and so we did. We froze the *lumpia* in the hotel room's refrigerator until D-day.

On cooking day, we needed to go once more to the grocery, this time in Ames where we were staying. Our young guide Lorilee Shultz brought us to another Asian store where we got the *sinigang* vegetables of eggplant, *pechay* and *labanos* and small sour tomatoes.

Rice was also bought there. The store had so many varieties stacked at the front from Indian basmati, California rice to the milagrosa, our fragrant variety that the Thais have appropriated for their own.

We had to settle, though, for a different kind of banana because *saba* was not available.

Lorilee brought us to another grocery where she said the best meat could be had and you could ask the butchers to cut according to specification. So pork spareribs were cut into *sinigang* sizes and, for the *adobo*, the pork belly into cubes and chicken cut at the joints.

First time

It took some time for our butcher to finish. It must have been the first time he was asked to do those cuts.

We used the kitchen in the hundred-year-old house of Dan Burden and his wife Terry, our hosts. It was a nice, cool and sunny day so we could open the windows to let out the smell of vinegar and soy sauce stewing.

CHICKEN **and pork** ***adobo***

The couple, however, loved the aroma because they had been to Asia and liked the food.

We distributed the tasks among the group that also included Virgith Buena and Ramona Singian. Every now and then, each of us would comment on how differently we, our mothers and grandmothers, did some of the dishes.

My assignment was to cook the rice. Lorilee watched in amazement as I reserved the second rice washing (*hugas bigas*) for the *sinigang* broth. Then I measured how much water was needed to cook the rice the old way, placing my middle finger just above the washed grains and pouring water to just below the middle line of my finger.

I could see in her face the question asked by almost everyone who had seen me cook rice. So I told her even before she could say anything that it did not matter how big your hands were, the technique would always be correct.

Myrna seconded by saying that, when they had to cook rice in a huge vat for a Filipino food festival in Israel, she did exactly the same thing and it came out right.

I am talking here about white rice, though. Red and brown rice need more water.

But, as insurance, I placed salt on the cover of the pot because my grandmother said that assured the rice would be cooked.

Luckily, one reader, a chemical engineer who does not wish to be identified, e-mailed an answer to my query for a scientific explanation written months ago in a previous column:

"My theory… is that salt reacts or combines with steam or water vapor being emitted by the hot pot. Salt has the property of controlling or absorbing heat [making] the ambient temperature cooler than the temperature inside the pot [in spite of the heat from the stove].

"The effect then is for the cooler temperature around the pot to slow down somehow the evaporation of water from inside the pot thereby producing a well-cooked rice."

Finally, the food was served on the Burdens' beautiful antique china.

How wonderful to eat Filipino food again after weeks of deprivation. How good to know that the "Kulinarya" recipes work. How great that we could give a taste not only of our cooking but also of our culture to our friends in Iowa.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

KITCHEN CREW. **Iowa kitchen crew of Virgith Buena, Myrna Segismundo and Ramona Singian**

EASTWOOD CITY'S HAINANESE CHICKEN RICE AND SOY CHICKEN
For a taste of Singapore, visit Eastwood Cyber and Fashion Mall. Try its Chicken Ginger and other traditional Chinese-Singaporean dishes. The restaurant's bestseller is Soy Chicken and Hainanese Chicken Rice. Soy Chicken, with its crispy dark-brown skin and tasty meat, is best eaten with mild red chili sauce (0917-8EWCITY).

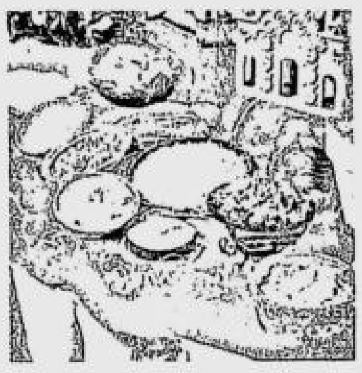
DINING OUT

Breakfast & Wi-Fi access

MARIO'S QUEZON CITY offers a wide selection of breakfast staples. With Wi-Fi access, diners can go online as they have their meal. Signature breakfasts include Mario's Grand Slam, Millennium Platter, and Filipino selections like Vigan *longganisa* and beef *tapa* served with garlic rice and two eggs. Mario's is at Tomas Morato corner Scout Gandia in Quezon City, tel. 4153887 or 3720360, e-mail mariosquezoncity@yahoo.com. In Baguio, Mario's is at Upper Session Road, tel. 074-4424241, e-mail marios_baguio@yahoo.com.

JAYMI'S GRILL (802 Pasay Rd. Makati, near Don Bosco Church) features Filipino dishes like *sisig*, Crispy Pata, Kilawing Tangigue, Inihaw na Liempo, Mango Freeze. New dishes include Pinalutong na Hito, Catfish Mango Salad, and Banana Q ala mode (tel. 8152741 or 8157990).

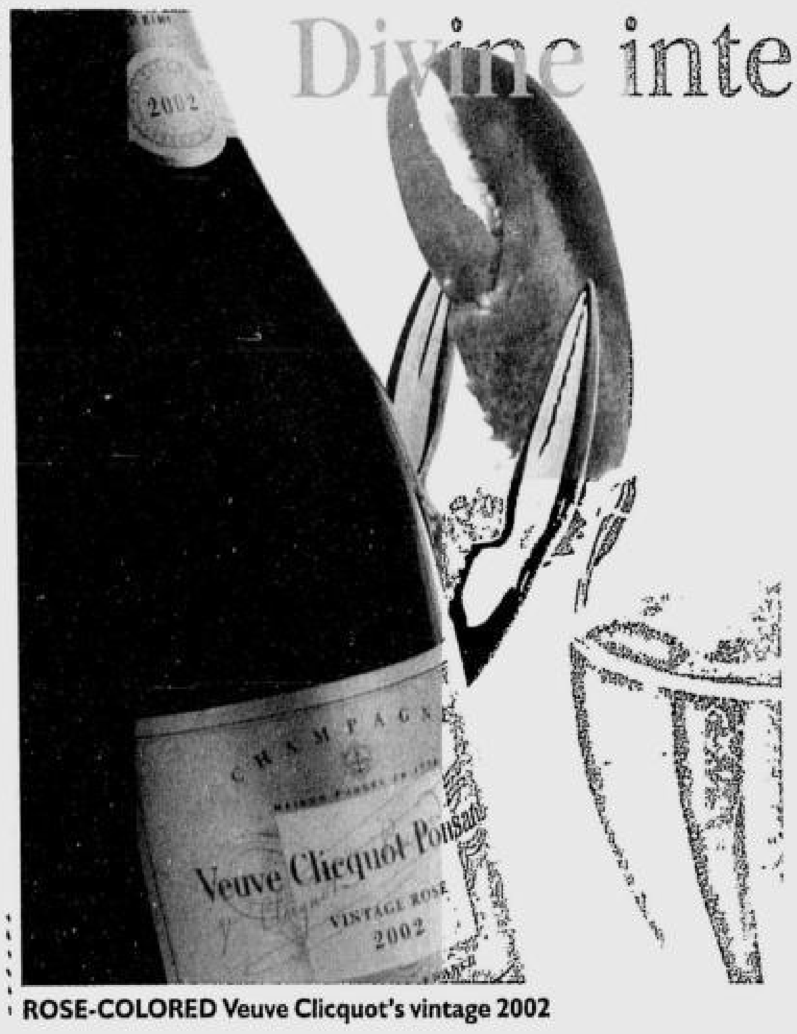
WESTGATE Alabang's Poquito Mas offers authentic flavors of Mexico. It has a Mexican buffet Fridays and Saturdays, 6-9:30 p.m. For a minimum of P199+, enjoy your favorite Fajitas, Mexican Pasta, empanadas, quesadilas, burritos and Poquito Mas' version of the Mexican ensalada. The offer is good until Nov. 17. Free drinks for groups of five or more (tel. 7711334 or 8503517 local 270).



POQUITO Mas Mexican Buffet

NEW MENU ITEM
Kebab G has been added to Salt & Pepper's menu. It features Mediterranean dishes including appetizers like Hommos and Babaganoush served with wheat pita bread. On the Kebab G entrée list are Shish Beef Tenderloin, Herbed Chicken, Herbed Ground Beef, Herbed Ground Lamb, and Flavored Shrimp, grilled over charcoal. The Mix Kebabs is a platter of ground beef, tenderloin and chicken. Kebab G also has tandoori shrimps and chicken. Salt & Pepper is at G/F Security Land Bldg, 6797 Ayala Ave. cor. VA Rufino St., Makati (8404848 or 8405656).

Divine intervention and vintage champagne



ROSE-COLORED Veuve Clicquot's vintage 2002

From page C1

ferent years in his constant quest to keep Veuve Clicquot's non-vintage offerings consistent.

In case you didn't know, Veuve Clicquot and the other wines and spirits Yvon represents belong to the Louis Vuitton Moet Henessy (LVMH) group, the world's biggest conglomerate of luxury products, which also includes various brands of fashion and leather goods, watches, perfumes and cosmetics. LVMH also operates the DFS and Sephora chain of stores worldwide.

"A bottle of champagne can't be called such unless it was produced in Champagne," Yvon continued. "Otherwise, that person [who insists on calling it champagne] is lying."

Since the 18th century

Yvon is referring to Champagne, a region 150 km east of Paris, which is noted for producing some of the world's best sparkling wines for hundreds of years now. Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin, for instance, has been around since the late 18th century.

A man named Clicquot founded the house when champagne-making in France was still in its infancy. He later handed down the thriving business to his son, who however died young.

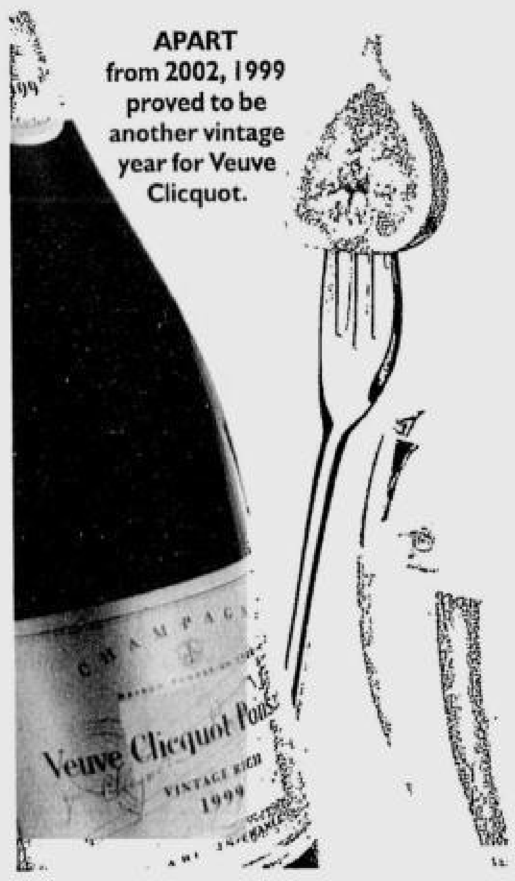
Rather than sell the estate, retire and live a life of luxury, his widow, Nicole, did the opposite. She bought more land, improved and expanded the business' operations and began exporting sparkling wine abroad.

From Clicquot, she renamed the winemaking estate Veuve (French for widow) Clicquot Ponsardin, the latter being her maiden name. For 61 years, until her death in 1866, Nicole led the house.

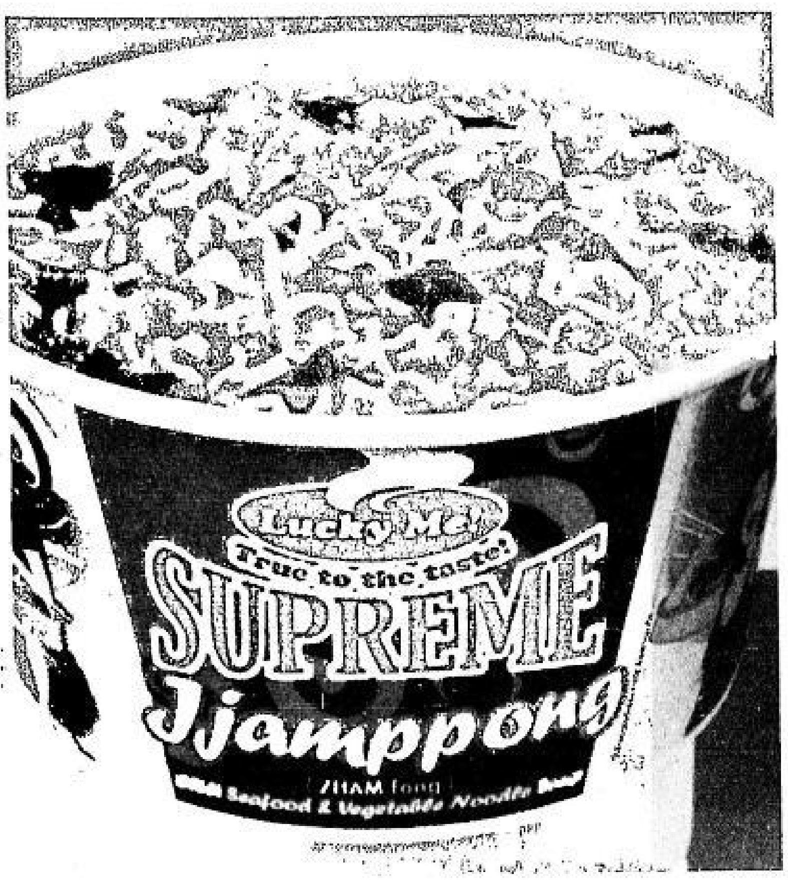
"As a result, she earned the title the Great Lady of Champagne," said Yvon. "She has been a very emblematic founder for us. Since the company still carries her name, we've tried to remain true to her legacy of producing nothing but the finest."

Unlike non-vintage varieties, where a great deal of mixing is involved to ensure consistency, vintage champagnes are good enough to stand on their own.

"The makings of a vintage year depends on a number of factors, mostly climactic ones," said Yvon. "That's why vintage champagnes, like our 1999 and 2002 vintages, are made not by men, but by God."



APART from 2002, 1999 proved to be another vintage year for Veuve Clicquot.



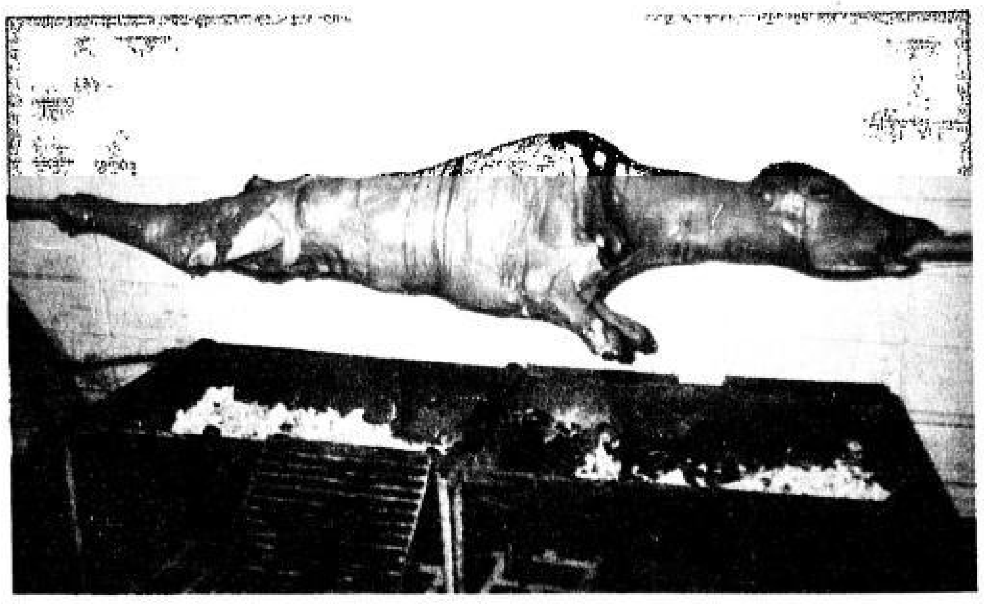
Convenient noodle meal

PEOPLE WHO ARE ALWAYS ON THE GO are constantly on the lookout for food products that can liberate them from the hassles of their daily routine. They need not look far for a solution to this problem.

Lucky Me! Supreme, the brand which pioneered the no-cook instant noodle in the country, is easy to prepare and conveniently packed, and can be eaten anytime, anywhere. That's why it has remained among the top food choices of modern, busy urbanites.

The authentic taste of popular Filipino dishes are transformed into no-cook Lucky Me! Supreme noodles with the following flavors: La Paz Batchoy, Bulalo, Chicken Sotanghon, Pinoy Chicken, Special Beef, and most recently, Jjamppong (a Korean chili seafood noodle soup).

All these Lucky Me! flavors are available at supermarkets and convenience stores nationwide.



AUSTRALIAN ROAST CALF FOR CHRISTMAS
For tender, tasty beef to perk up your holiday parties, try young Australian roast calves (age 6-10 months), cooked on the spot at your Christmas venues. Available in medium, large, jumbo sizes, these roasts from Australia do not need to be injected with any flavoring to satisfy. Sauteed calves liver steak with onion is included. Sauces include rich steak gravy and Hawaiian (7267321, 7269329, 0921-6665925 or 0920-8434749).

THE CONSUMER

A Christmas wish

By Linda B. Bolido

I JUST ARRIVED FROM A TRIP ABROAD and I was hoping to be pleasantly surprised by seeing metered taxis queuing in front of the arrival area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

But, to my disappointment, there was no such thing. I had to take the coupon taxi that charged P440 to bring me to Malate while a colleague paid P530 to be brought to his office in Port Area.

I know Manila International Airport Authority general manger Alfonso G. Cusi said in a letter to this column in August that he was working to provide NAIA arrivals alternative transport by the third quarter of the year.

Well it is now the third quarter of the year. In fact, we only have a little more than a month to go before we say bye-bye to 2007.

I hope that before the Christmas rush is upon us, visitors would be able to have a choice between coupon or metered taxi service.

Of course, we also continue to wish for a new, bigger, more modern airport. But Santa Claus is known only for his generosity, not his ability to perform miracles.

Davao City's international airport already puts NAIA to shame. Kuching in Sarawak, Malaysia, also considered provincial by many and often likened to Davao, has a modern, spacious airport although the traffic does not yet get as heavy as in the NAIA.

The Kuala Lumpur International Airport has twice been voted best airport. Both Hong Kong and Bangkok have new airports.

On the other hand, what is supposed to be the Philippines' new airport, NAIA 3, is fast becoming an old airport without receiving a single flight.

An airport gives foreign arrivals their first impression of a country. If we are serious about making tourism a major dollar earner we should make that first impression as good as we can make it.

Feedback

Reader Marco Ng, an accountant, is another unhappy bank client.

It seems he had the same experience as Mila Alora, whose troubles with the automated teller machines (ATM) were mentioned in last week's column.

Ng wrote he tried to withdraw money on Oct. 31 from an ATM of the Security Bank and Trust Company. But when he saw the long queue, he went to the nearby Bank of the Philippine Islands ATM.

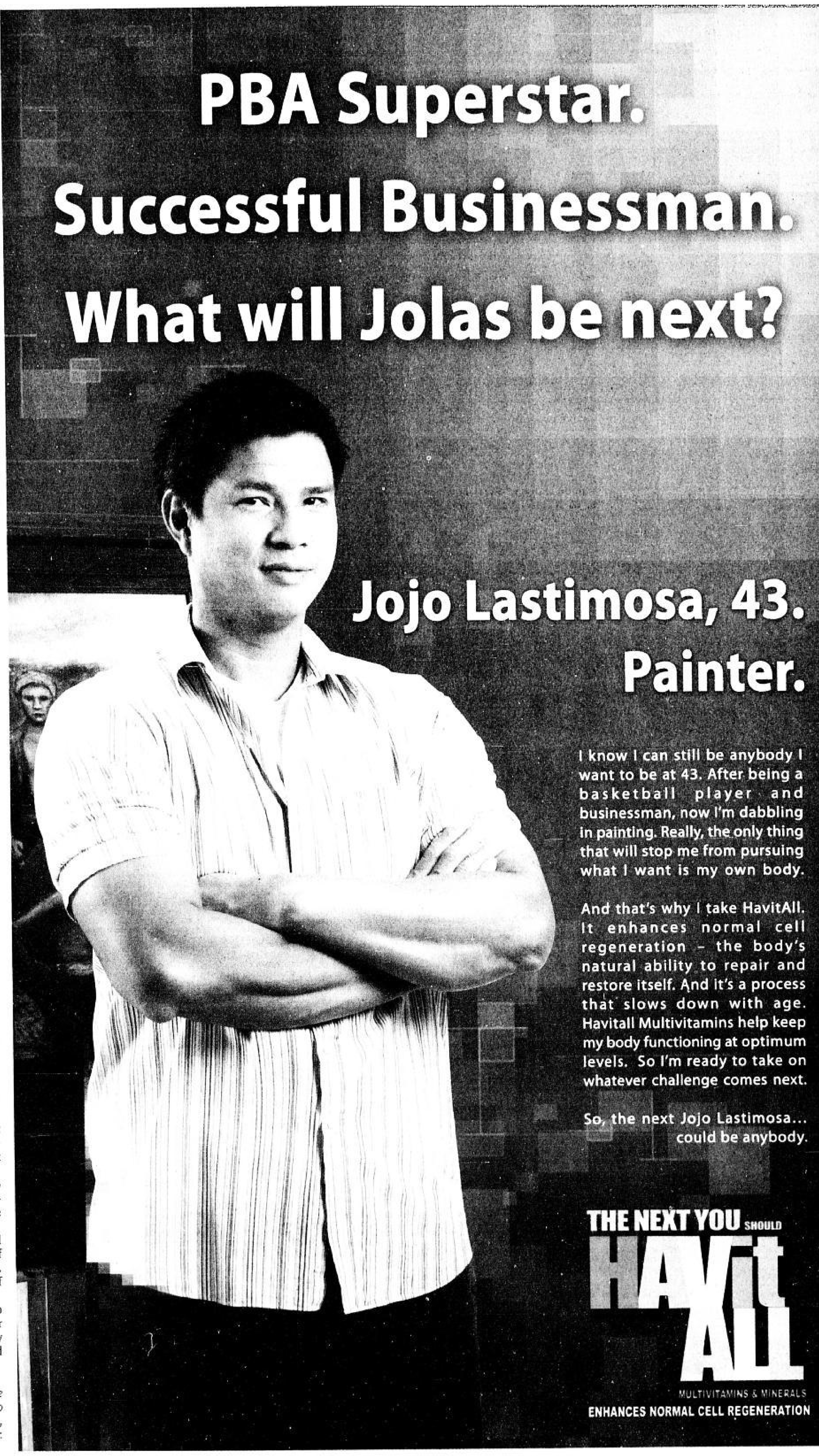
He had the same problem that Alora had, he did not get the money he was trying to withdraw. "I also tried calling their service hotline (89-100) but to no avail. No one answered my four calls. I called at intervals of 15 minutes. May be the service people were sleeping or were not there," Ng said.

He suggested that BPI tried to look into its connectivity with the other banks, improving and/or updating both software and hardware.

Ng said he was even more concerned about what would happen to clients if their cards were captured by BPI ATMs. How could they report such incidents if nobody answered the bank hotline?

Meanwhile, Alora said Banco de Oro had acted promptly on her problem. Her account had been updated. The money that she was not able to withdraw had been restored to her account.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph



I know I can still be anybody I want to be at 43. After being a basketball player and businessman, now I'm dabbling in painting. Really, the only thing that will stop me from pursuing what I want is my own body.

And that's why I take HavitAll. It enhances normal cell regeneration – the body's natural ability to repair and restore itself. And it's a process that slows down with age. Havitall Multivitamins help keep my body functioning at optimum levels. So I'm ready to take on whatever challenge comes next.

So, the next Jojo Lastimosa...
could be anybody.

GREAT Ribeye

New grill house in Ortigas

TEXAS ROADHOUSE GRILL OPENS ITS second branch Nov. 12 at El Pueblo in Ortigas. The 140-seater restaurant features a saloon-style façade and dark wood interiors. It has an extensive grill section and the bar serves the restaurant's hand-shaken Silver Star Margarita.

Texas Roadhouse Grill, which opened its first branch in Bonifacio High Street this year, will be open daily 11 a.m.-12 midnight Sunday-Thursday, and 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday. Call 6356715-16.

TEXAS Roadhouse Grill's Baby Back Ribs

HENYSISON
CULINARY SCHOOL
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

WALTERMART – MAKATI
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November 8,10,12-14(Thu., Sat, Mon-Wed)6:00 – 10:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! COOKING WITH CHEF ED by: Chef Ed Quimson** Learn basic kitchen skills and home recipes with Master Chef Ed Quimson as he whips up a gastronomic evening of good food cooked with his own unique tricks! A special course that runs for 5 evenings for all foodies, geared towards luring students for after office activities. Learn, cook and dine with us ! **Day-1:** Salpicao, Croquetas, Tortilla de Patata, Menudo Spanish Style and Callos **Day 2:** Sotanghon Sukiyaki, Pancit Buko, Bam-I Guisdao and Roast Duck Mami **Day 3:** Mushroom Cannelloni, Penne w/ Smoked Longaniza Sauce, Smoked Chicken Lasagna, Spahgetti w/ Bacon, Asparagus & Mushroom Cream, Fettuccine of Crepes w/ Mango and grated White Chocolate **Day 4:** Pescado Al Penalti, Chicken Empanada, Paella Negra and Ensalada Especial **Day 5:** Roast Iberian Chicken, Arroz Abanda, Empanada and Russian Salad. **P600 per day(Special Evening- Promo Class)**

November 9 (Friday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m. **BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison** *Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Center & Butterscotch Bars. **P1,500**

November 10 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! JAPANESE GRILLED AND APPETIZERS by: Chef Koichi Kondo** *Yakitori Mix, Salmon Hoilyaki, Mongo, Gyumaki, Papaya Gyumaki, Agedashi Tofu, Tofu Steak, Aji Tataki, Aji Miso Tataki, Katruo Tataki. **P2,000**

November 11 (Sunday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! MODERN FLORAL DESIGN WORKSHOP by: Glenn Remorca** A special demo class for modern metropiles who appreciate minimalist décor and new trends of floral design. Learn how to Source, mount and execute all your materials for a new & modern look. **P3,000**

November 12-13 (Monday - Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m **NEW CLASS ! CREATIVE COOKIES : WORKSHOP by: May Santos,** themed cake stylist, owner of Kitchen Kraft.Learn to create cookies in various shapes and designs. Bring out the artist in you as you learn how to bake and decorate cookies for any occasion. **P3,000**

November 12(Monday)1:30 – 5:30 p.m **SOMETHING FISHY by: Carrie Madrid Recipes:** Creamy Baked Salmon, Fish and Corn Chowder, Fried Fish in Beer batter with Aioli Sauce, Fish in parchment, Crispy Tilapia with Sweet Soy dipping sauce and Grilled Fish Kebab. **P1,600**

November 12 (Monday)6:00 – 10:00 p.m. **CHOCOLATE INDULGENCE by: Carrie Madrid** Double your pleasure without doubling your efforts. Learn how to make a decadent treat. Easy, show-stopping desserts for the chocoholic. *Chocolate Molten Cake, Chocolate Torte with Coffee Sauce, Triple Layer Brownie, Chocolate Tiramisu, Decadent White Chocolate Mousse and Coffee Panna Cotta with Chocolate Sauce. **P1,650**

November 13(Tuesday)2:00 – 7:00 p.m. **THE ARTFUL CUPCAKE by: Chef Jacqueline Ang-Po** Flavorful cupcakes with colorful designs. Learn how to bake, decorate and mix and match pretty cupcakes! Easy to make and easy to sell. **Recipes:** Classic yellow cupcake with buttercream (different colors, designs and flavors). Chocolate cupcake with 7 minute frosting, Triple Chocolate Cupcake, White Chocolate Mocha, Lemon Meringue, Strawberries and Chocolate. **Bonus Recipe:** Sugar Free Cupcakes! **P1,800**

November 14(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m **SPECIAL TABLE AND HOME DECOR FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca**Floral Table Centerpieces w/ actual demonstration and table setting presentation. For your home, caterers & restaurant owners. Pro & non-Professional students are invited **Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P3,000**

November 15 (Thursday)9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **CALIFORNIA STYLE PIZZA WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison** *Vegetarian Pizza, Grilled Lime Chicken Pizza, Thai Pizza, Pineapple Ham Pizza, Mushroom & Sausage Pizza and Shrimp Pizza. **P1,700**

November 14 - 15 (Wednesday - Thursday)6:00 – 10:00 p.m **NEW CLASS ! SOUP AND BREAD WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison** Learn how to make clear and thick soup as well as breads that can be used as accompaniments to soups in this 2-day evening workshop. **Recipes:** Basic Stocks – Chicken, Fish, Vegetable & Beef; Chicken Consomme, Minestrone, Cream of Mushroom, Pumpkin Soup, Shrimp Bisque & New England Clam Chowder **Breads:** Focaccia, Croutons, Bread Sticks, Dinner Roll, Olive Bread & Buttermilk Biscuits. **P3,000**

November 16 (Friday)9:00 a.m – 1:30 p.m. **BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison** *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. **P1,500**

November 16 (Friday)2:00 – 5:00 p.m. **SPECIAL COURSE ON COOKIES by: Heny Sison** *Chocolate Chip Cookies, Jam Thumbprint, Peanut Butter Cookies, Lemon Bars, Chocolate Cups, Oatmeal and Chocolate Crinkles. **P1,500**

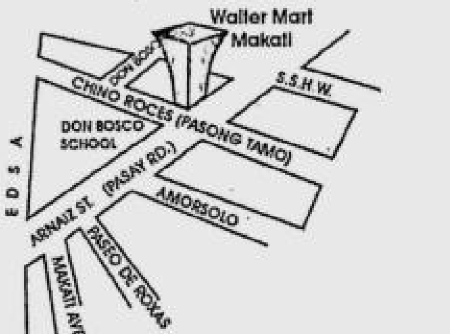
November 16 (Friday)6:00 – 10:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! AUSTRIAN DESSERTS by: Heny Sison** *Kaiser-Schmarrn (Austrian Pancake – My Favorite Pancake !), Apple Streudel with Homemade Phyllo Dough, Ale Cake, Salzburger Nocken (Salzburg Souffle) and Gugelhupf Cake. **P1,500**

November 18 (Sunday)10:00 – 4:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! RESTAURANT COOKING AT HOME by: Chef Carlo Miguel,** Executive Chef, Mezzaluna Restaurant **Recipes include** Spiced Pumpkin & Coriander Soup, Insalata Mista w/ Sun Dried Tomato Dressing, Pan Roasted Lapu-lapu Fillet w/ Pepperonata & Basil Oil, Red Wine Braised Beef Shortribs w/ Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes & Mushrooms, Mixed Berries & Mascarpone Tartlets. **P2,000**

November 19(Monday)9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **JAPANESE RICE TOPPINGS by: Chef Koichi Kondo** *Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Tendon (Tempura Bowl), Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl). Soboro-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl), Ton Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki). **P1,700**

November 19(Monday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m **SUSHI CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo** *Temaki-Zushi (Do-It Yourself Sushi Rolls), Bara-Zushi (Scattered Sushi), Inari-Zushi (Sushi Pockets), Futo-Maki Zushi (Thick-Rolled Sushi), Teka-Maki (Hand-rolled Tuna Sushi), Kappa-Maki (Sea Cucumber Sushi) and California Maki. **P1,700**

November 19 (Monday)6:00 – 10:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! PERSONAL CHEF by: Chef Carlo Miguel** *Mango Gazpacho with Duck Springroll, Deconstructed Mediterranean Vegetable & Arugula Salad with Balsamic Reduction, Angel Hair Pasta with Tomato Lemon Sauce Vierge, Fillet Mignon with Truffled Pomme Anna & Creamed Leeks Chocolate & Hazelnut Pudding with Bailey Sauce. **P2,000**



November 20(Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon **BREAKFAST AND BRUNCHES by: Jacqueline H. Alleje Recipes:** Mango Lassi, banana Pancakes with Home Made Muscovado and Kesong Puti –thyme Muffins, ham & Cheese Scones, Chocolate Pumpkin Loaf, Smoked Fish (tinapa) -cheese spread whole wheat toasts, Frittata, Quiche Lorraine, Grilled Tomatoes, Kesong Puti, Tomato-Mango Salsa, Organic Mixed Vegetables Salad with Vinaigrette. **Reservation Required! P1,900**

November 20 (Tuesday)1:00 – 4:30 p.m **HEALTHY GOURMET – HOLIDAY TREATS AND BUFFET SPREADS by: Jacqueline H. AllejeRecipes:** Chicken Liver Mousse, Carrot Coriander Soup, Fish Goujons with Dips, Boursin Tartlets, Roast Beef with Roasted Garlic, Bell Pepper and Carrots, Vegetable Crumble with Anchovies. Holiday Fruit Salad, Spiced Pears in Red Wine, Mango Bavarian Cream. **Reservation required ! P1,950**

November 20 (Tuesday)6:00 – 10:00 p.m. **MY FAVORITE CAKES by: Heny Sison** *Caramel Cake, Banana Nut Cake, Pandan – Macapuno Cake, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Peach Walnut Torte and Brazo de Mercedes. **P1,500**

November 21(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **SOUFFLE BASICS by: Chef Vivian Syyap** *Cheese Souffle, Smoked Salmon Souffle, Spinach Souffle, Chocolate Souffle and Orange Souffle. **Please reserve 3 days before. P1,850**

November 21 (Wednesday)6:00 – 10:00 p.m. **CHEWY CHUNKY COOKIES by: Heny Sison** *Chocolate Chocolate y Chocolate Chip Cookies, Fudgie Wudgies, Dark Brown Choco Chips, Moist Chewy Oatmeal Cookies, Banana Nut Chocolate Chunkies and Baker's Best Snickerdoodles. **P1,500**

November 22 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m **HOUSE OF CURRY by: Chef Vivian Syyap** *Rogan Josh (Creamy Kashmir Lamb Curry), Japanese Katsu Curry (Pork Curry Rice), Thai Green Curry Chicken with Eggplant, Singapore Fish Head Curry and Chana Dahl (Stewed Lentil Curry). **P2,200**

November 22 - 24 (Thursday – Saturday)6:00 – 10:00 p.m. **CAKE DECORATING COURSE II by: Heny Sison** *Add amazing new skills to your cake decorating – the world of icing flowers, distinctive borders, flower spray & specialty flowers. As a final project you will decorate a basketweave cake filled with cascading flowers. **Full participation. P4,000**

November 23 (Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! CHRISTMAS PACKAGING IDEAS by: Glenn Remorca** Learn how to make unique wrappers and packaging for your holiday goodies using an assortment of materials locally available. Do your own paper wrappers, prints and accessories for home and business use. **Full participation.P2,500**

November 24 (Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon **MUFFIN WORKSHOP by: Jacqueline H. AllejeRecipes:** Banana Yogurt Muffin, Chocolate-Ricotta Muffin, Spicy Raisin Muffin, Cocoa-Nut-Oatmeal Muffin, Sweet Potato-Walnut Muffin. Parmesan-Tomato Muffin, Chocolate-Cinnamon Muffin, and Low Fat Muffins: Herbed Brown Rice, Carrot-Orange and Raisin Bran Muffin. Students may assist in the preparation of the muffins.**P1,500**

November 24 (Saturday)1:00 – 4:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! PANCAKES, CREPES and BLINTZES by: Jacqueline H. Alleje**Pancakes and crepes are some of the most wonderful foods you can find. The American pancake with syrup, the French crepe, which is French for pancake, but in a delicate thin, crisp form, or the Jewish Blintz. They all have one thing in common: they come in savory and sweet version, can be enjoyed as full meals or snacks, and most recently, even as sophisticated cocktails. Learn the techniques of batter preparation, folding, filling and presentation of crepes, blintzes and pancakes. **Recipes:** Plain and whole wheat pancakes with honey, muscovado syrup and banana, Lentil Dosas (Indian Pancake), Ricotta Pancake with mango salsa, Refreshing Lemon Blintzes Cheese Blintzes, Whole wheat and plain crepes: Spinach crepes, Asparagus and ham crepes, Mozzarella-pesto crepes, Mango crepes in different versions, Orange crepes and Lace crepes with strawberry sherbet. **P1,500**

November 25 (Sunday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **NOCHE BUENA TREATS WORKSHOP by: Chef Sam de Leoz** * Why prepare the same Noche Buena dishes every year when you can prepare the old classics with a twist! The Noche Buena hands on workshop will provide an alternative respite to homemakers whipping up menus for the family in the coming holiday season. **Recipes:** Cochinillo w/ Roasted Liver Sauce, Dalandan-Brined Roast Turkey Pinoy-style w/ Basil Wine Liver and Giblet Gravy, Morcon w/ Sauce Choron and Chinese-style Stuffed Pork Trotters w/ Chestnut Filling in Shitake Apricot Glace; **SALAD:** Pomelo Salad; **RICE:** Thai Shrimp Paste Paella; **DESSERT:** Jackfruit Panna Cotta w/ Kopi Jelly & Ube Coulis garnished w/ Cheese Crisps **P4,000**

November 26-27 (Monday – Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! FUN-THEMED CUPCAKES : WORKSHOP by: May Santos** Party -favor cupcakes! Make your events special & personalized with home baked cupcakes highlighted with edible toppers in various themes & motifs. **P3,000**

November 26 (Monday)1:30 – 5:30 p.m **GUILT-FREE SWEET TEMPTATIONS by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle** Let Carlo show the tricks of giving in to those tempting sweets yet avoiding the fat and the carbs. **Recipes** include various kinds of Fat-free Yoghurt Cheesecake with Fat-free crust, Fat-free Vodka Cake, Apple-Banana Bread Pudding, and Fat-free Carrot Cake. He will also show you how to whip up a totally fat-free, sugar free whipping topping from scratch. **P1,500**

November 26 (Monday)6:00 – 10:00 p.m. **CAFÉ DESSERTS: PART I by: Heny Sison** *Triple Chocolate Chip Cookies, Pecan Pie Bars, Gooey Lemon Bar, Fruit filled Fried Pies, Sticky Date Pudding w/ Butterscotch Sauce. **P1,500**

November 27 (Tuesday)2:00 - 7:00 p.m. **COFFEE SHOP SANDWICHES by: Chef Vivian Syyap** *Reuben, Pastrami, Meatball Sub, Chicken Parmigiana on Sour Dough Rolls, Grilled Mediterranean Vegetables with Hummus on Pita. **P2,000**

November 28 (Wednesday)6:00 – 10:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! PIES AND TARTS WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison** * Lemon Lime Pie, Chocolate Macadamia Pie, Rum Spiked Caramel Apple Pie, Almond Pinenut Tart and Strawberry Tart. **P1,500**

November 29(Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **MORE THAN JUST PIZZA ! by: Chef Vivian Syyap** Learn to create and extend the Pizza Dough into other delicious **EATS!** ***Foccacia:** Focaccia with Onions, Focaccia with Rosemary, Focaccia with Olives; **Sicilian Calzone:** Eggplant, Black Olives, Capers, Pecorino, & Mozzarella, **Panzeroti:** Fried Pizza Pastries a la "Hot Pockets"; **Stromboli:** Pepperoni, Salami, and Provolone. **P2,000**

November 29 (Thursday)6:00 – 10:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! BELGIAN WAFFLE AND OMELETTE STATION WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison** Learn how to make Belgian Waffles with accompaniment i.e. Strawberries, Blueberries, Sliced Bananas, Whipped Butter Pecans & Maple Syrup & Fluffy Omelettes with Ham, Bacon Tomatoes, Scallions, Mushrooms, Fire Roasted Green Chilies, Salsa, Monterey Jack & Cheddar Cheese. **P1,000**

November 30 (Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m **NEW CLASS ! GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN by: Patty Loanzon** Quick easy gift to make a store. Packaging ideas & suppliers provided. **Recipes:** Liver Pate, Hungarian Cheese, Asian Dressing, Cranberry Vinaigrette, Herbed Croutons, Toffee Walnut Sauce, and Peanut Butter Sauce **P1,500**

November 30(Friday)6:00 – 10:00 p.m **NEW CLASS ! BASIC RESTAURANT KITCHEN LAYOUT AND DESIGN by: Mar Mission of GOMECO METAL CORPORATION** Learn how to layout the flow of your goods from the back door to the dining area and type of equipment to use. **P1,500**

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5 Intimate & Exciting Nights of
COOKING WITH CHEF ED QUIMSON
Only P800 a day From 6 - 10 pm.
November 8, 10 & 12 to 14
Thursday, Saturday & Monday-Wednesday

WALTERMART – MAKATI
CLASSROOM II

November 10 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **BARBECUE WORKSHOP WITH DIPS AND SAUCES by: Chef Sam de Leoz** *Spicy Buffalo Wings w/ Blue Cheese Dip & Celery Sticks, Famous Aling N2 Barbecue w/ Melitzanosalata (Spicy Aubergine Dip), Indonesian Mixed Satay: Mixed Beef & Lamb w/ Sambal Kacang (Peanut Sauce), Yakitori w/ Mango Black Bean Salsa, Grilled Seafood Medley: Prawns, Scallops & Fish Fillet w/ Mustard – Dill Vinaigrette, Grilled Sausage w/ Cilantro Aioli Dip, Amorgozo (Ampalaya) & Smoked Fish Morsels w/ Cottage Cheese & Garlic Crunch Dressing, Java Rice. **P2,000**

November 11 (Sunday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **HEIRLOOM-2 RECIPES AND SIGNATURE CATERING DISHES by: Chef Sam de Leoz Recipes:** Kare-Kare, Beef Kaldereta, Tangue Steak, Lengua with Sauce Robert, Chicken Barbecue and Tropical Fruit Salad. **P2,250**

November 13 (Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Carlo Miguel** *Tagliatelle with Ragu Bolognese, Handmade Salmon Ravioli w/ Tomato Basil Sauce, Handmade Grilled Vegetable & Goat Cheese Lasagna, Rigatoni w/ Roasted Tomato Chicken & Pesto Cream Sauce. **P2,500**

November 14 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **CHARCUTERIE BASICS (SAUSAGE WORKSHOP) by: Chef Vivian Syyap** *Learn the art of curing, brining, and basic sausage-making. **Featuring:** Fresh Corned Beef, Pastrami, Breakfast Sausage, German Bratwurst, Frankfurter, Smoked Sweet Italian Sausage. **P3,500**

November 18 (Sunday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m **BACKYARD GRILLING & BARBECUE WORKSHOP PART 2 by: Chef Sam De Leoz(Limited to 18 students only)** The Chefs shares with you in this full participation workshop a few of his signature Grilling and Barbecue all time favorites. **Recipes:** Charbroiled SAM'S Baby Back Ribs w/ Barbecue Sauce and Grilled Corn, Grilled Blue Marlin w/ Sauce Grenobloise, Grilled Tuna Belly in Kikkoman Cilantro Marinade w/ Tamarind-Miso Dip, B Grilled Squid w/ Hot Chili Soy Vinegar, Grilled Chicken Breasts w/ Green Pepper Corn Sauce, Grilled Prawns w/ Beurre Noisette and Charbroiled Alimango w/ Roasted Siling Panigang Vinegar-Bagoong Isda Dip. **P2,300**

November 19 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! CUPCAKELICIOUS by: Carrie Madrid** Delicious cupcakes dressed in an assortment of colors, flavors and style. Treats that are fast becoming best sellers among all ages. * Tiramisu, Boston Cream, Green Tea, Black and White, Smore's Cupcake, Chocolate Espresso Fudge Cupcake and Mangoes and Cream. **P1,600**

November 20 – 21 (Tuesday – Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m **CHINESE BANQUET I by: Chef Katherine Sion. 2 days hands on session** where in you taught on how to prepare and taste a full Chinese banquet and learn also how to set it up in style. Please bring in aprons. **Recipes:** Assorted Cold Cuts (White Chicken/Seaweeds/ Century Eggs/ Pork Cutlet/ Baked Shrimp), Fish Lips Soup, 2 Kinds in a Platter (a)Shrimp Ball with Chili Asparagus tips in the nest, (b)Fried Rolled Chicken Roll, Grilled Beef Rib Eye with Barbeque Spice and Baked Crab with 8 Spices, Steamed Fish with Ham Bits and Leeks, Cantonese Birthday Noodle, Yang Chow Fried Rice and Fruit Platter. **Reservation is Requested ! Pls. bring your own apron. P4,900**

November 22 – 23(Thursday - Friday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison** *Learn the basics of cake decorating: icing, color, star, shell, dots, outline and scallop borders; the rose, figure piping: clowns & booties. Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. **Full participation. P4,000**

November 24 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **HEIRLOOM-1 RECIPES AND SIGNATURE CATERING DISHESby: Chef Sam de Leoz Recipes:** Palabok, Wine-braised Mechado, Roasted Brined Pork Ribs w/Asian-Style Barbecue Sauce, Layered baked Macaroni w/Anchovy Butter Toast, Relyenong Manok and Kilayen. **P2,000**

November 25 (Sunday)10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. **BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison** *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing. **P1,500**

November 26 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! SEAFOOD WORKSHOP by: Chef Carlo Miguel** *Grilled Squid Tomato White Bean & Coriander Salad with Smoked Paprika Dressing, Cioppino, Baked Snapper Chorizo & Pimento En Papilote, Crisp Skin Salmon with leek & Bacon Risotto. **P2,500**

November 27 (Tuesday)6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**DIMSUMBAR by: Chef Katherine Sion** Make your own Siomai Wrapper, Egg Noodles, Lumpia Wrapper, Vegan Siomai, Pork Siomai, Seafood Siomai, Stir Fried Egg Noodle with 4 Mushroom in Oyster Sauce, Dynamite Noodle Soup, Cuapao Wrapper, Vegan Filing, Kathy's Lumpia Filing. **Reservation is requested ! P2,500**

November 28 (Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**MEXICAN FAVORITES by: Carmela Madrid** Enjoy the flavor of Mexico right in your own home. With there delicious and easy to make recipes: Flour Tortilla, Red Mexican Salsa, mango Salsa, Chicken Enchiladas, Beef Fajitas, Cheese and Corn Flautas and Beef Tacos. Free Recipes: Guacamole, Frijoles Refritos (refried beans), Traditional Mexican Red Rice, Chile Con Queso **Demonstration with student participation. P1,500**

November 29 (Thursday)10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS ! JAPANESE HEALTHY FOOD by: Chef Koichi Kondo** *Gyoza, Harumaki, Nama Harumaki, Spicy Salmon, Saicy Tuna, Kani Salad, Hourensou Tomagotoji (Spinach), Hourensou Tomago Roll, Hourensou Butter, Kancon Gyu Yaki. **P2,000**

November 30 (Friday)9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **CHRISTMAS GIVE AWAY I (Features delicious and easy to make Bars and Cookies) by: Chef Vicki Villanueva**You are sure to enjoy baking them. **Recipes:** The Best Chocolate Cookie, Black Forest Bars, Choconut Crumble Bars, No Bake Brownies, Flourless Brownie and Brownie Christmas Pudding **Reservation is requested ! P1,950**

November 30 (Friday)1:30 – 5:30 p.m. **CHRISTMAS GIVE AWAY II by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** Discover how easy to make gifts to tease the taste buds. Enjoy the flavorful dips and learn the ABC's of Bottling. * My Best Liver Pate, Eggplant Caviar, Smoked Tinapa Spread, Bottled Puttanesca Sauce, Black & White Sesame Grissini, Garlic Sticks, Melba Toast U.S. Granular Potato Crackers, Bottled Tuyo w/ Capers and Homemade Marinated Kesong Puti w/ Herbs, Dried Pasta, Peanut Brittle & Violet Crumble **Reservation is requested ! P1,800**

CALLING ALL ALUMNI
We have lined-up various activities for you
in connection with the
20th Anniversary celebrations
of the Heny Sison Culinary School
which will coincide with
the formal opening of our Makati branch.

Register & fill up the Alumni forms in our Quezon City or
Makati Office!
Contact Rita or Jenny at tel. nos. 726-5316 or 412-7792
or Makati Office thru Glenn's at tel. nos. at 386-22-10 to 11
or send in your latest resumé or personal contact info thru
Telefax no. 412-7792 or email : henysison@pacific.net.ph

QUEZON CITY

November 9 (Friday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) **A TASTE OF LIFE RECIPES: PART 1 by: Heny Sison** *Barquillos, Pulvoron, Pastillas de Leche, Pastillas de Ube and Special Buko Pie. **P1,500**

November 10 (Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 12.00 noon(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR THE HOME AND GIVE AWAYS (Naturally Sweetened with Honey, Muscovado or Splenda) by: Jacqueline H. Alleje** *Fruit Cake Cookies, Pumpkin Spiced Cookies, Santa's Thumbprints, Ginger Snap Oats, Vanilla Butter Crescents, Oatmeal Snow Balls, Ginger Pennies and Lemon Flowers. **P1,750**

November 10 (Saturday)1:00 – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! HEALTHY GOURMET – PARTY & FAMILY TREATS(Baked Pastas and Casserole Dishes) by: Jacqueline H. Alleje** *Asparagus-Fish Fillet in Lemon Cream Pasta Casseroles, Baked Penne with Mozzarella and Kesong Puti, Stuffed Bell Peppers with Organic Brown Rice or Bulgur, Baked Ham & Spinach Rolls Swiss Style, Baked Zucchini with Ricotta Cheese, Creamy Chicken Mushroom Casserole. **Reservation required ! P1,800**

November 12 (Monday)9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **SECRETS NO MORE ! by: Heny Sison** *Decadent Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing & Caramel Sauce, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake. **P3,000**

November 13(Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) **HEALTHY GOURMET - SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE 1 by: Jacqueline H. Alleje** *This class is suitable for all people who want to be able to cook healthy dishes, lose weight considerably and people with health concerns such as diabetes, high blood pressure and other dietary restrictions. The class will guide you through the principles of healthy nutrition, South Beach Diet phase 1 "Swiss Pinoy Style", which uses locally available ingredients. **Complete menu plan and recipes for 14 days of Phase 1. P1,650plus P700 recipe booklet for Phase 1**

November 13 (Tuesday)1:00 – 4:30 p.m. (classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! HEALTHY GOURMET – SOUTH BEACH DIET HOLIDAY DISHES AND BUFFET SPREADS by: Jacqueline H. Alleje. Happy holidays and parties without weight gain Recipes:** Warm Prawn Salad with Tropical Fruits, Mini Onion tartlets, Thai Guacamole with Vegetable Sticks, Pumpkin Soup, Fillet of Lapu-Lapu or Maya-Maya with Citrus Fruit, Roast Beef with Thyme Roasted Onions, Splenda sweetened desserts: Strawberry Mousse, Chocolate-Ricotta Cupcakes, Christmas Cookies. **Reservation required ! P1,950**

November 14(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! DUCK UNLIMITED by: Chef Katherine Sion** Make your loved ones and friends happy this holiday season by learning how to roast a delicious Peking duck for them. Other interesting duck recipes are included so you can either sell or give it as a gift this Christmas. Peking Duck served 3 ways, soup, Duck Meat with lettuce wrap, Crisp Duck skin w/ Mandarin wrap, 2-kinds Sauce Dip, Roast Duck Cantonese Style, Sauté Noodles w/ Shredded Dusk Meat, Duck Wrap California Style, Duck Rice in a Bowl, Grass Jelly. **P2,600**

November 14(Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **BAKING WITH CHOCOLATE WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison** *Triple Chocolate Cookies, Chocolate Bread, Chocolate Macaroons, Devil's Food Cake with Ganache Frosting and Lamingtons. **P2,500**

November 15(Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) **MY FAVORITE MERINGUE by: Chef Jacqueline Ang-Po** *Canonigo with Crème Anglaise, Hazelnut Sansrival, Strawberry Pavlova, Chocolate Concorde, Mango Walnut Meringue and Flavored Colorful Meringue. **P1,800**

November 15(Thursday)9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! FILIPINO MERIENDA BUFFET by: Chef Vicki Villanueva**Halo-Halo Bar *Halayang Ube, Guiaman, Mom's Creamy Leche Flan, Sweetened Bananas, Red Beans, Pinipig, Langka and my Secret Sauce. On the spot Bibingka, Lumpiang Ubod with Pandan wrapper and Peanut Sauce, Chicken Empanada Kaliskis, Pancit Malabon, Dinuguan and Puto and New Royal Bibingka. **P2,650**

November 16(Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **FLOWER SHOP FAVORITES by: Glenn Remorca** *Make fresh floral arrangement for birthdays, baptismal, anniversaries in different styles and materials. Sourcing of materials included. **Demo and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors. P3,000**

November 16(Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **JAPANESE COOKING I (All Time Favorite Japanese Recipes)by: Chef Koichi Kondo** *Miso Soup, Tempura, Nimono, Yakimono, California Maki, Chilled Soba, Noodles with Nori, Skewered Dumplings with Brown Sauce. **P1,700**

November 17(Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **DIFFERENT CHOCOLATE CAKES by: Chef Jacqueline Ang Po** *Chocolate Fudge Cake, Flourless Chocolate Walnut Cake, Sachertorte, German Chocolate Cake and Warm Chocolate Souffle Cake. **P1,800**

November 17(Saturday)9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **QUICK CLASSIC CAFÉ FOOD by: Chef Sam de Leoz** Increase your income by learning how to make the most saleable food items in cafe. We'll teach you to cook and plate quick meals. Plus! give info on sidings, storage and shelf life **Recipes:** Chicken ala Kiev, Beef Salpicao, Roast Chicken, Salisbury Steak, Hainanese Chicken Rice, Fish Fillet with Tartar Sauce and Hickory Spareribs. **Free Recipes only: (no demo) Salad Dressings: Thousand Island, Caesar, Asian and fruits. P1,850**

November 19 (Monday)9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m (classroom A) **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison** *Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar. **P1,500**

November 19 (Monday)1:30 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **CHRISTMAS BARS & COOKIES by: Heny Sison** * Food for the Gods, Carmela's Bar, Oatmeal Lace Cookies, Macaroon Cups, Revel Bar and Macadamia Cookies. **P1,500**

November 19 (Monday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **YOGHURT IT YOURSELF! by: Chef Carlo Estagle** Learn how to make yoghurt, and even use it in different dishes from appetizers, soups, salads, pastas and even desserts. **Recipes include:** Carrot-Potato Yoghurt Soup, Ampalaya Salad with yoghurt and crabsticks, Pasta with Yoghurt Cream sauce, and New York Yoghurt Cheese cake. **P1,500**

November 20 (Tuesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) **SWEET BUT SUGAR FREE CAKES II by: Chef Jacqueline Ang-Po** * Cappuccino Tiramisu, Oatmeal Chip Cookies, Almond Sansrival, Vanilla Pannacotta, Chocolate Mousse Cake, Fudge Macadamia Brownies. **P1,800**

November 20 (Tuesday)9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! CHRISTMAS GIVE AWAY 3 LOAFS, QUICK BREAD AND PIE by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** *My Best Butter Cake, Carrot & Hazelnut Cake, Banana Bread, Marble Chocolate Bread, Blueberry Muffins, Banoffie Pie and Rum Cake. **P2,500**

November 21(Wednesday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! MAMON GALORE ! P1,200by: Heny Sison** *Caramel Mocha, Cheese, Lemon, Orange and Chocolate Flavor

November 21 (Wednesday)1:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! ROLLS GALORE ! by: Heny Sison** *Ube Roll, Mocha Roll, Crema de Fruta Roll, Malacañang Roll & Chocolate Roll. **P1,200**

November 21(Wednesday)9:00 – 4:00 p.m (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! MENU FOR ENTERTAINING by: Chef Vicki Villanueva** Crown Roast of Pork with Sausage and Chestnut Stuffing with Gravy, Timbale of Pasta with Italian Meatballs, Sole Florentine, Beef Wellington, Caviar and Cheese Pie and Mrs. Vi Date and Nut Pudding. **P2,950**

November 22 (Thursday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) **DELI IN A BOTTLE (Let's Bottle Up 2 !) by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle** A follow up course on the Bottle Up Class. Here we will learn how to make the classic Dulong in Olive Oil, Fish Roe with Sundried Tomatoes, Pomodorro Salsa with Tinapa, Bangus Sardines in Tomato Sauce, Special Bagoong (from scratch) and a special Chocolate Vodka drink. **P1,500**

November 22 (Thursday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m.(classroom A) **PRESERVING THE HARVEST by: Chef Carlo Estagle** " Shelves of glistening, jewel-like jars, filled with preserved fruits and herbs..." That simple description sums up the rewards of canning and preserving. With this simple skill, we can enjoy those seasonal fruits any time of the year. In this course, we'll learn the fine art of drying and making Candied Orange Rind, Candied Glass Lemons, Candied Pineapples, Apple Chips, and Mint Jelly. **P1,800**

November 22 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE COOKING by: Chef Koichi Kondo** *Sushi, Sashimi, Sukiyaki, Miso Soup, Tempura, Teriyaki, Udon Noodles in Clay Pot, Chicken Teriyaki & Japanese Fried Rice. **P2,500**

November 23 (Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m (classroom A) **NEW CLASS ! JAPANESE MAIN DISHES by: Chef Koichi Kondo** *Gindara Teriyaki, Lapu-Lapu Nimono, Ebi Fry (Boiled Shrimp w/ Soy Sauce), Ebini (Boiled Shrimp), Toyi Karaage (Japanese Style Fried Chicken), Gyumaki Fry (Crusted Beef Roulade), Okonomiyaki (Japanese Pancake), Kushihirekastsu (Pork Deep Fried). **P2,500**

November 23 (Friday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **LET'S BOTTLE UP ! by: Chef Juan Carlo Estagle** Putting up food for future enjoyment is a decidedly old-fashioned pursuit. Yet more and more cooks today are rediscovering it and even making a business out of it. In this course, you'll learn everything you need to know to bottle and preserve food efficiently, safely, beautifully; and of course: with delicious results. The outcome is sure to be a rainbow of jars filled with Dalandan Marmalade, Ginger Marmalade. Bacalao Filipino, Tawilis Sardines, Tuyo Pasta Salsa, Tomato Pasta Salsa, and even pickled onions and quail eggs. **P1,500**

November 24 (Saturday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A)**BAKING I by: Heny Sison** *Super Moist Chocolate Cake with Mocha Filling & Fudge Icing, Pecan Tassies, Lemon Pie, Macapuno Bars, Crispy Sylvanna, Cream Puff with Caramel Topping, Butterscotch Bars & Sables. **P1,500**

November 24 (Saturday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! JAPANESE NOODLES by: Chef Koichi Kondo** *Shouyu Ramen, Chashu Ramen, Chanpon Ramen, Yakiudon, Udon Cold, Udon Hot, Yakisoba, Soba Hot, Chasoba. **P2,000**

November 26 – 30(Monday – Friday)9:00 a.m. –12:00 noon(classroom A) **GUMPASTE FLOWER MAKING by: Heny Sison** *A unique method of making gum paste using a foam pad, a pair of scissors and cutters. **The course covers**: the Rose, Carnation, Stephanotis, Tulips, Filler Flowers, Cattleya, Christmas Holy, Poinsettia, Daisy, Tiger Lily and Quick Leaves. Learn how to use airbrush and edible petal dust to color the flowers and bunch them into a bouquet. **Full participation. P5,000**

November 26-30(Monday-Friday)9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon(classroom A) **CAKE DECORATING COURSE III by: Heny Sison** *Learn how to create a tiered wedding cake, embellishing borders, side borders, string work, filigree, fancy flowers, color flow on cookies, sugar molding, lattice for the side of the cake and tiered cake ideas. The grand finale to course 3 is an impressive wedding cake. **Full participation. Prerequisite: Cake Decorating Course 1 & 2. This completes the Master Course in Cake Decorating. P8,000**

November 26 – 30(Monday – Friday)1:00 – 5:00 p.m (classroom A) **ADVANCED CAKE DECORATION by: Heny Sison** *This course covers: baking of fruitcake, covering it with marzipan then with rolled fondant. Learn South African and Australian methods using delicate icing wings, curtainings, ribbon insertion done on rolled fondant, quilting & cut-outs **Prerequisite: MASTER IN CAKE DECORATION. Full participation. P10,000**

November 26 – 30(Monday – Friday)9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom A) **LAMBETH CONTINENTAL COURSE (The Ultimate in Cake Decorating)by: Heny Sison** *The course covers: the intricate overpiping borders on royal icing and fondant covered cakes. Students decorate cake using combination of overpiped borders and tiny flowers. Master Course and Advanced Cake Decoration Course are prerequisite to this course. **Full Participation. P10,000**

November 26(Monday)10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! CHOCOLATE INDULGENCE II by: Carrie Madrid** More tempting chocolate deserts to delight your palate. Rich, creamy and incredibly good to eat. * White Chocolate Cheesecake, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Truffle Torte, Chocolate Profiteroles, Chocolate Fudge Bar and Chocolate Fondue. **P1,650**

November 27(Tuesday)9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.(classroom B) **CHINESE CHRISTMAS FEAST by: Chef Katherine Sion** *Beggar's Chicken, Chinese Sucking Pig Fried Crab with salt and pepper, Minced Meat w/ Lettuce, Shrimp Salad, Tikoy. **P3,000**

November 28(Wednesday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) **NEW CLASS ! SHABU-SHABU BAR by: Chef Katherine Sion.** Create your own business in making different balls for your Shabu-Shabu Bar. Learn how to operate this business by doing your own costing and sourcing for your business.* Sate Soup, Clear Stock, Herbal Stock, Fish Ball, Fish Cake, Kani Ball, Beef Ball, Squid Ball, Shrimp Ball, Fat Beef, 3 Kinds Sauce Dip, Shrimp Fried Rice. **P3,000**

TUITION FEE Includes ingredients. Reservation is required.

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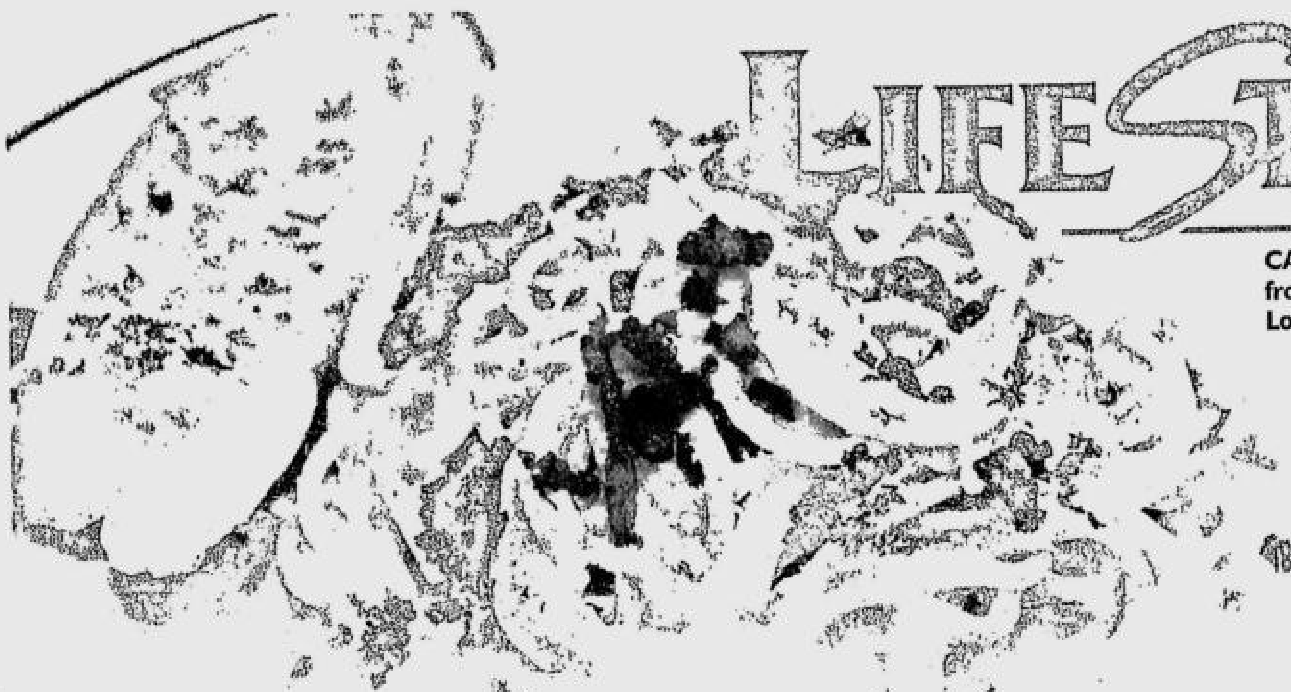
LIFESTYLE



CARBONARA from the recipe of Lola Edith Perez

LIZZIE and Chito Guerrero have made their restaurant a family affair by using well-loved recipes from relatives.

Home sweet (spaghetti) home

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Ryan Lim

IF FAMILY MAKES A HOME, The Old Spaghetti House should rightfully be called Old Spaghetti Home.

Not only is the restaurant that debuted four years ago on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City owned by husband and wife Albertito "Chito" and Melissa "Lizzie" Guerrero but the menu is anchored by recipes that his and her families have enjoyed for years.

Several *titas'* and one *lola*'s reinventions of the spaghetti are among the signature dishes of the restaurant.

Eggplant Parmigiana and Fried Spaghetti Cake were contributed by Lizzie's Tita Nenette (Dintemann). Chicken Piccata with Garlic Spaghetti, Aglio Olio with Anchovy and Capers, Baked Mussels with garlic and cheese and Carbonara came from Lizzie's Lola Edith Perez.

> Anchored on family recipes, the Old Spaghetti House might as well call itself Old Spaghetti Home

The couple's Tita Ev (Evelyn Reyes) contributed the Vietnamese Garlic Spaghetti while the Oriental Spaghetti came from Tita Wewi (Wewi Panlilio).

Chito's mom, Annie Pascual Guerrero, founder and president of the Cravings group of restaurants and Center for Culinary Art (CCA), contributed her own American Baked Spareribs and Parmesan Crusted Fish Fillet.

Though Chito may have cooking in his genes, it is actually Lizzie who is in charge of the restaurant's kitchen. But then, having been graduated from the CCA, she has imbibed the Guerrero culinary tradition.

Chito said, although they had decided to specialize on pasta when they opened their first outlet on Katipunan, they wanted a restaurant that would appeal to the students with their limited buying capacity.

Calling the place an Italian restaurant would have given it "airs" so they opted to focus on spaghetti, which had become a popular fast-food fare.

Armed with the recipes from relatives and Lizzie's own concoctions, they fixed up what used to be called Full House, borrowing pieces from his father's extensive antique collection.

The menu is changed regularly and they are hoping to include soon favorite recipes of celebrities. They have already gotten tentative agreement from Iza Calzado, Chot Reyes, Ces Drilon and Gary Valenciano.

Another project in the works is to encourage their patrons to share their own

HOME/ D4

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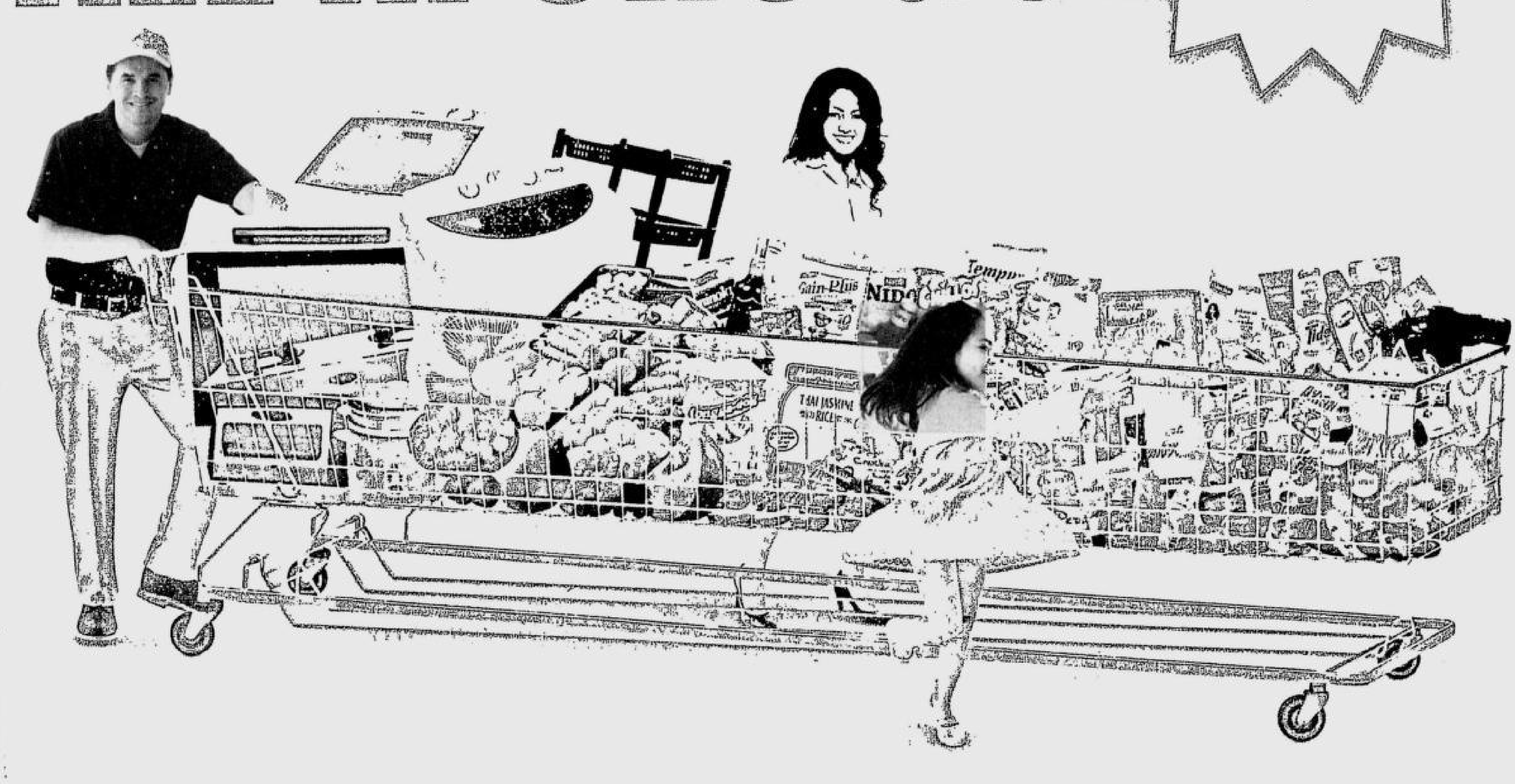

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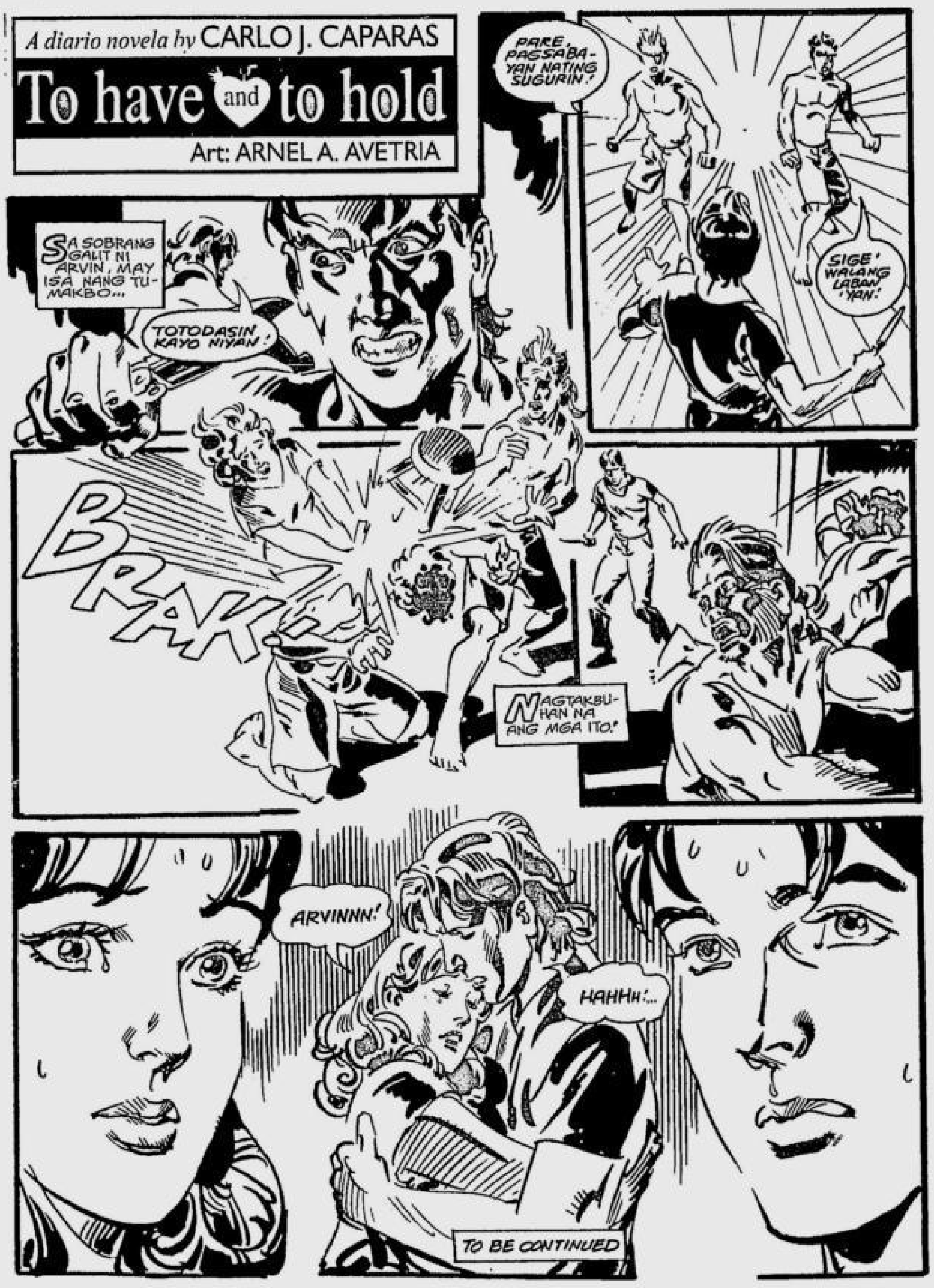
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2007

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

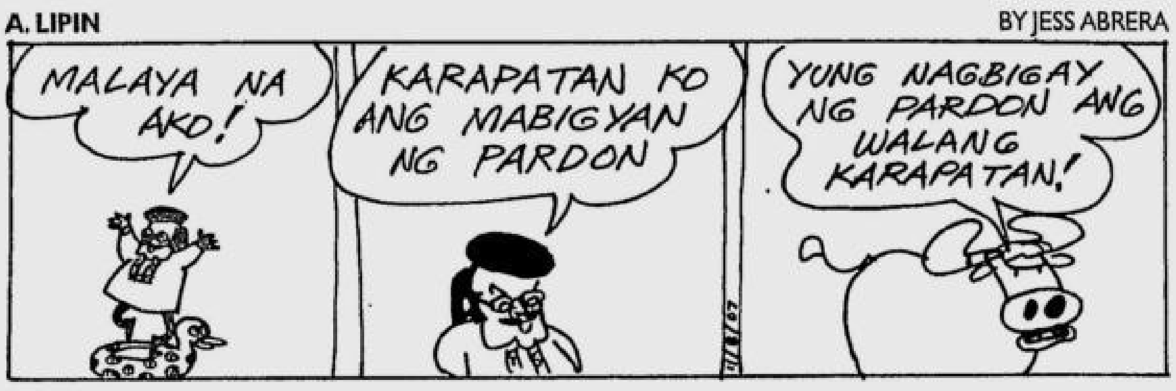
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


PARE, PAGSABA-YAN NATING SUGURIN!
SA SOBRANG GALIT NI ARVIN, MAY ISA NANG TU-MAKBO...
TOTODASIN KAYO NIYAN!
SIGE' WALANG LABAN 'YAN!
BRAKK!
NAGTAKBU-HAN NA ANG MGA ITO!
ARVINNN!
HAHHH!...
TO BE CONTINUED

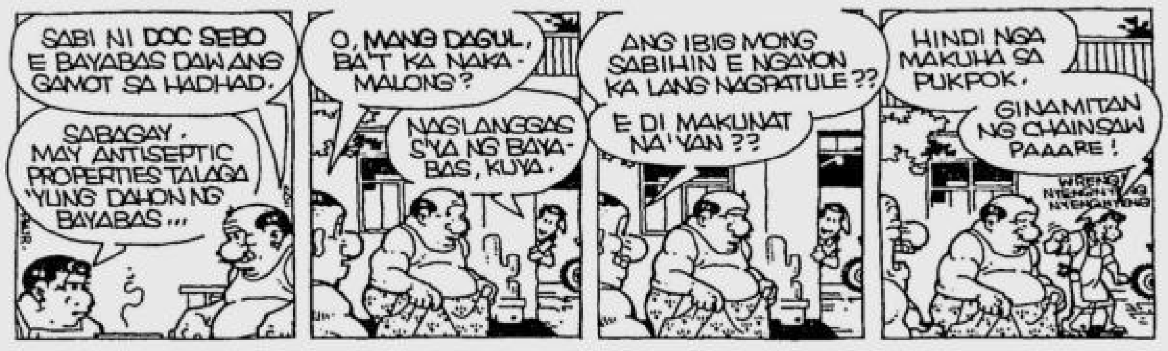
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALAYA NA AKO!
KARAPATAN KO ANG MABIGYAN NG PARDON
YUNG NAGBIGAY NG PARDON ANG WALANG KARAPATAN!
11/8/07

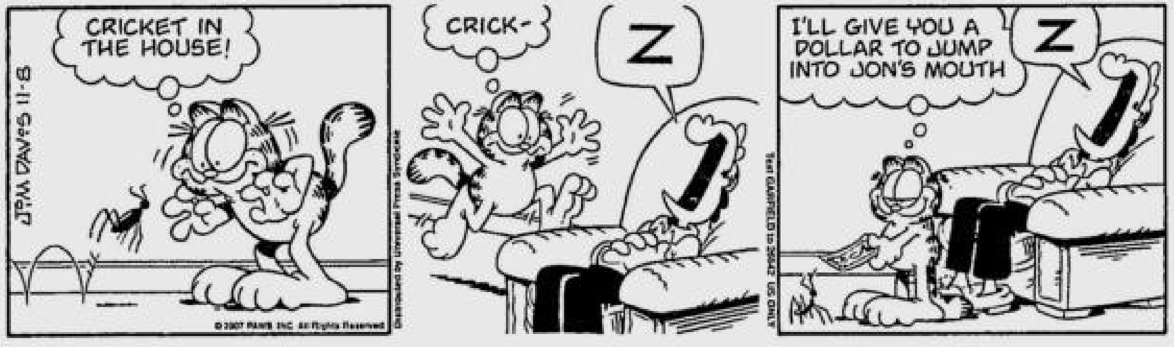
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SABI NI DOC SEBO E BAYABAS DAW ANG GAMOT SA HADHAD.
SABAGAY. MAY ANTISEPTIC PROPERTIES TALAGA 'YUNG DAHON NG BAYABAS...
O, MANG DAGUL, BA'T KA NAKA-MALONG?
NAGLANGGAS S'YA NG BAYA-BAS, KUYA.
ANG IBIG MONG SABIHIN E NGAYON KA LANG NAGPATULE??
E DI MAKUNAT NA 'YAN??
HINDI NGA MAKUHA SA PUKPOK.
GINAMITAN NG CHAINSAW PAAARE!
WRENG! NYENGNYENG NYENGNYENG

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


CRICKET IN THE HOUSE!
JPM DAVIS 11-8
© 2007 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved
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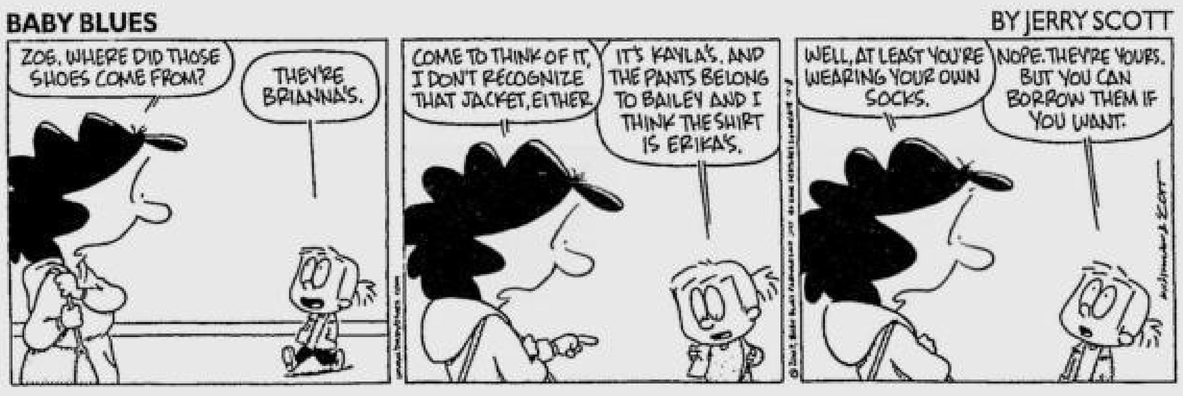
CRICK-
Z
Text GARFIELD to 26642 US ONLY
I'LL GIVE YOU A DOLLAR TO JUMP INTO JON'S MOUTH
Z

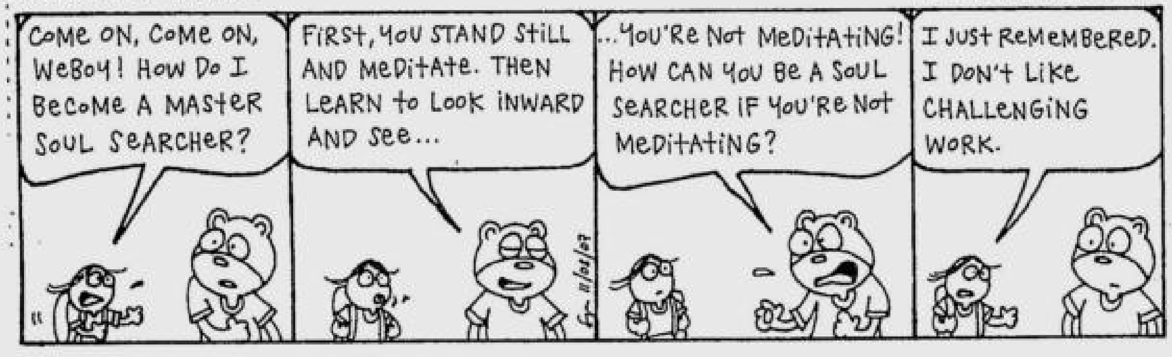
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE, WHERE DID THOSE SHOES COME FROM?
THEY'RE BRIANNA'S.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT JACKET, EITHER.
IT'S KAYLA'S. AND THE PANTS BELONG TO BAILEY AND I THINK THE SHIRT IS ERIKA'S.
WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE WEARING YOUR OWN SOCKS.
NOPE. THEY'RE YOURS. BUT YOU CAN BORROW THEM IF YOU WANT.

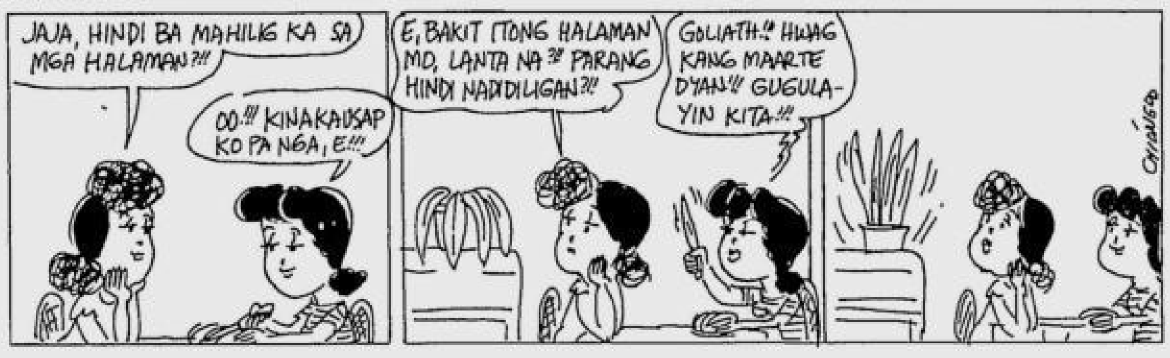
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


COME ON, COME ON, WEBOY! HOW DO I BECOME A MASTER SOUL SEARCHER?
FIRST, YOU STAND STILL AND MEDITATE. THEN LEARN TO LOOK INWARD AND SEE...
...YOU'RE NOT MEDITATING! HOW CAN YOU BE A SOUL SEARCHER IF YOU'RE NOT MEDITATING?
I JUST REMEMBERED. I DON'T LIKE CHALLENGING WORK.
11/08/07

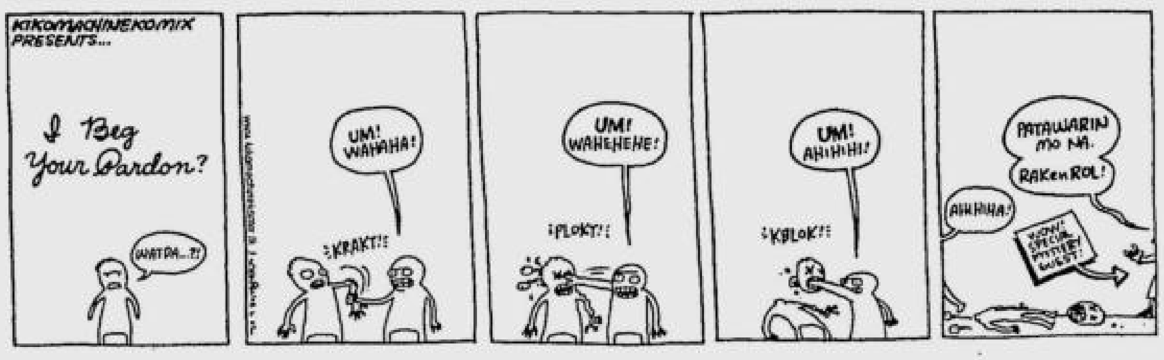
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, HINDI BA MAHILIG KA SA MGA HALAMAN?!!
OO!!! KINAKAUSAP KO PA NGA, E!!!
E, BAKIT ITONG HALAMAN MO, LANTA NA?! PARANG HINDI NADIDILIGAN?!!
GOLIATH!!! HWAG KANG MAARTE DYAN!!! GUGULA-YIN KITA!!!
CHIONGLO

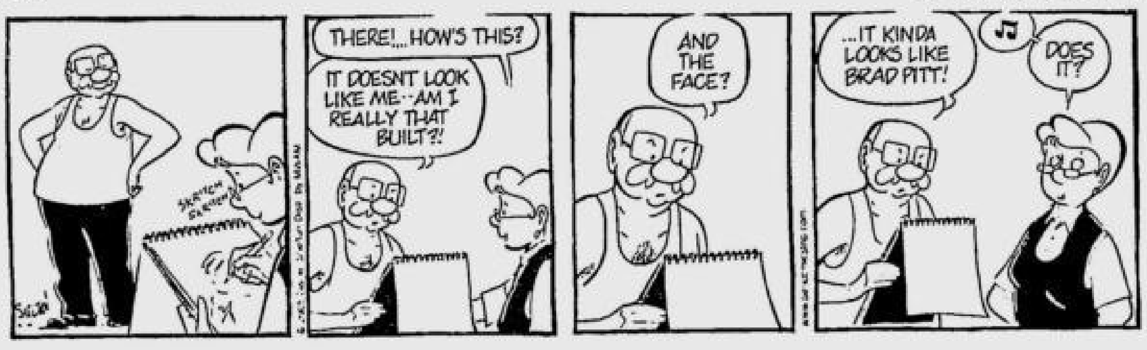
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS...
I Beg Your Pardon?
WATDA...?!
UM! WAHAHA!
¡KRAKT!¡
UM! WAHEHEHE!
¡PLOKT!¡
UM! AHIHIHI!
¡KBLOK!¡
PATAWARIN MO NA. RAKENROL!
AHHHHA!
WOW! SPECIAL MYSTERY GUEST!

BEN

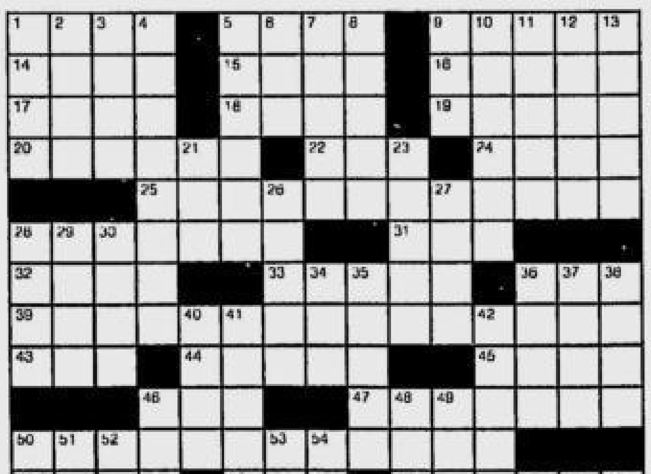
BY DANIEL SHELTON


SKRITCH SKRITCH
THERE!...HOW'S THIS?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ME...AM I REALLY THAT BUILT?!
AND THE FACE?
...IT KINDA LOOKS LIKE BRAD PITT!
♫
DOES IT?

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Dog of a movie
5 Sharing pronoun
9 Like Pisa's tower
14 Inventory
15 Shortest distance flier?
16 Stair step part
17 Banned orchard spray
18 Bandleader Puente
19 Reeves of "The Matrix"
20 Layers
22 Alley of the comics
24 Calendar units
25 Start of Don Addis quip
28 City north of Calgary
31 Broke bread
32 Hydrox rival
33 Kind of acid
36 Bake-sale holding grp.
39 Part 2 of quip
43 Born as
44 Breck rival
45 Yemen's capital
46 Gam
47 Type of general
50 End of quip
55 Goofs
56 HST's successor
57 Racket sport
61 Poker move
63 Bard grad, e.g.
65 Comic Imogene
66 Major's successor
67 Iota
68 Organic compound
69 Fireplace accumulation
70 Ensnare
71 Transmitted

DOWN
1 Woe is me!
2 River deposit
3 Romanov title
4 Haphazardly
5 Scale range
6 Tell's canton
7 Whirlybird whirler
8 Hawk's attack
9 Place of refuge
10 Color fabric, '60s-style
11 Scientist Newton
12 Singer Lotte
13 Reliance
21 Titleist supporter
23 Preferred strategy
26 Answering machine button
27 Tiny power unit
28 Colorful mount
29 Sea eagle
30 Frankie Avalon hit, "__ Dinah"
34 Comic Brooks
35 Domed dwelling
36 Pre-univ. exam
37 Actress Louise
38 At a great distance
40 Tel. button: abbr.
41 Goaded
42 Piths
46 Movie dog
48 Eggnog spice
49 Opp. of WNW
50 __ buena
51 Dental exams?
52 Bathsheba's husband
53 Ansel or Samuel
54 Honeydew, e.g.
58 Nary a one
59 PC image
60 __ of the earth
62 Sounds of hesitation
64 Actress Hagen



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

11/8/07

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

M	O	T	H	■	S	L	A	B	S	■	O	D	I	N
A	T	R	A	■	P	I	L	O	T	■	T	I	L	E
N	O	E	L	■	I	T	A	L	O	■	I	S	L	E
T	O	P	T	E	N	H	I	T	L	I	S	T	■	■
E	L	I	S	E	■	■	■	S	I	D	■	A	B	S
L	E	D	■	L	E	S	E	■	D	O	R	S	E	T
■	■	■	G	E	N	T	L	E	■	■	A	T	T	A
R	E	C	O	R	D	O	F	T	H	E	Y	E	A	R
O	M	A	R	■	■	L	I	N	A	G	E	■	■	■
V	I	P	E	R	S	■	N	A	P	A	■	A	S	S
E	L	Y	■	M	A	S	■	■	■	D	A	N	T	E
■	■	B	E	S	T	N	E	W	S	I	N	G	E	R
A	J	A	X	■	R	E	D	I	A	■	T	O	R	T
L	A	R	A	■	A	V	E	R	T	■	A	R	E	A
I	M	A	M	■	P	A	R	E	E	■	L	A	O	S

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11/8/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: No matter how flippant you might appear, you're a serious person. You take things deeply. You like to explore the human condition. You have excellent money savvy, and you approach life with a practical, realistic point of view. Success matters to you. (You have your own definition of success.) In the year ahead, partnerships and relationships will be unusually important.

Birthdate of: Parker Posey, actress; Bonnie Raitt, singer/songwriter; Rickie Lee Jones, singer/songwriter.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day for serious discussions with partners and close friends. Together you will delve deeply into whatever you're talking about. Furthermore, solutions are possible.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a great day to make improvements at work. Alternatively, some of you might want to make improvements to your health, your diet or your exercise regimen.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Some of you will be engaged in important discussions with children and young people. You have a desire to enlighten them. Others might see new, creative, artistic applications for things.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day to tackle home repairs—especially related to plumbing, bathrooms and laundry areas. Get rid of junk and garbage!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're unusually persuasive today. In part, this is because you easily see the bottom line. It's as if you have X-ray vision today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You'll see either new ways of earning money or new ways of spending it today. You certainly can see new uses for something you might already own.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Discussions with others are unusually frank today. You're not afraid to say what's on your mind. Just remember, because others feel the same way, you might be shocked by what you hear!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a wonderful day to research anything. Your ability to get to the bottom of things or see new solutions to old problems is excellent.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Discussions with friends are very frank today. Someone might really confide in you. Alternatively, perhaps you're the one who needs to confide in someone else. Either way, these are juicy conversations!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with parents and bosses are mutually illuminating today. You all see new ways of looking at the future—in particular, new ways of using whatever is at hand.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Go forward with travel plans or plans related to education or training. Your ability to chart your new direction is excellent today. You know where you're going!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This can be a productive day if you're working with bills, taxes and shared property and dealing with the responsibilities you have to others. You want to clean things up!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

5				1				
8		1		6			5	
7				9				
9	4	8	6					
	6						3	
					8	9	6	1
				8				3
	7			5		2		4
				2				9

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/08

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	8	2	5	4	6	3	7	9
4	6	9	1	3	7	8	5	2
5	7	3	8	2	9	6	4	1
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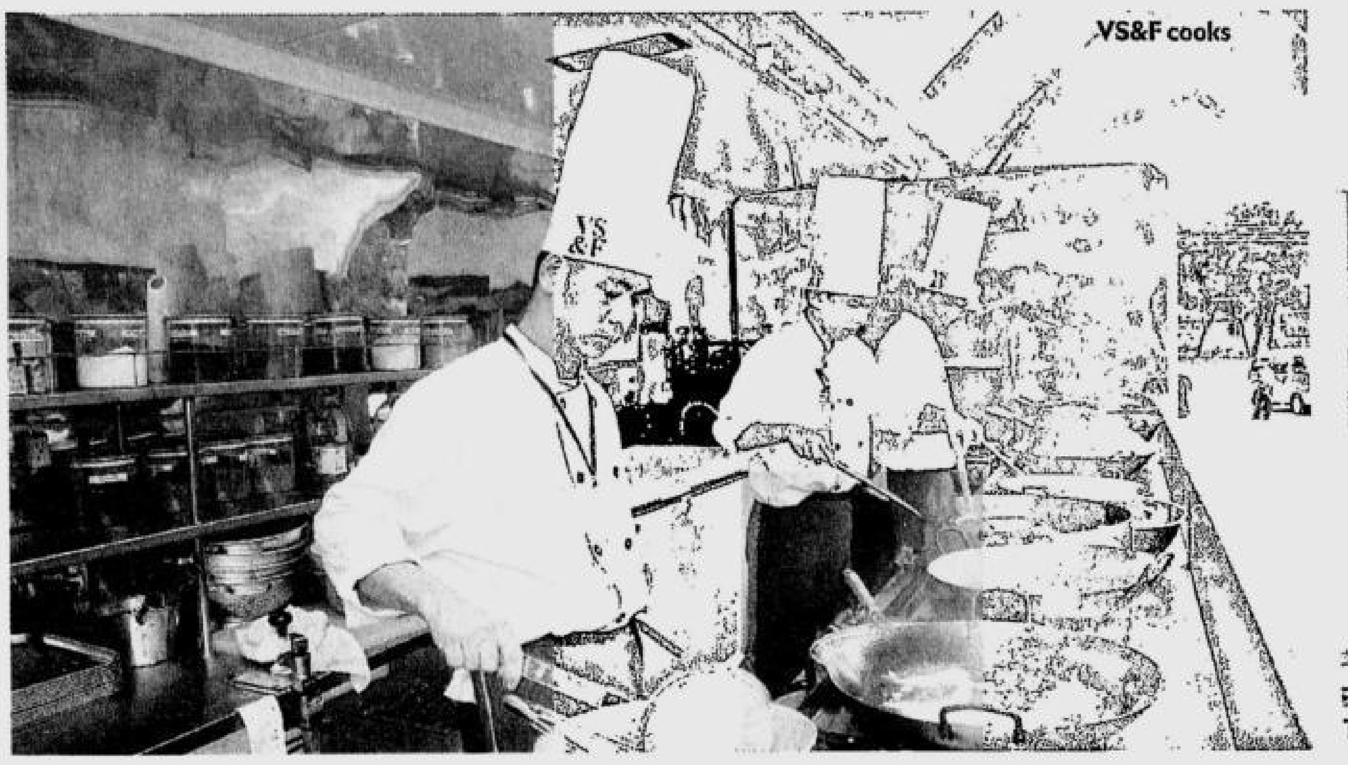
VS&F cooks

Kitchen on Wheels
TEL.: 937-4989 • 461-6182 • 936-5054 FAX.: 937-4980 Cell: 0917-8516633
E-mail: vsfclassic@yahoo.com • www.vsfcatering.com

THE 24-wheeler customized truck

OWNER Salvador Abesamis, right, has the water tank and 17-KVA power generator blessed.

Kitchen on the go serves caterers well

IT IS THE SERIOUS CATERER'S ANSWER to the perennial problem of small kitchens in venues or nonexistent cooking facilities outside the Metro Manila.

Kitchen on Wheels, which cost over P2 million to build and is today the country's first mobile kitchen, has the capacity to prepare a full-course meal for 500. This means no reheated food, lesser chance of spoilage or food poisoning, and meals that are fresh and hot.

Salvador Abesamis, president of VS&F Classic Food International, says the 24-wheeler customized truck is a dream come true for him.

A caterer's version of a TV network's broadcast van, the truck is equipped with refrigerators, high-flame ovens, prep tables and oversized rice cookers. These kitchen appliances, and a 17-KVA power generator, are screwed to the Kitchen on Wheels' floor and stainless walls for safety. The truck opens on one side to show the chefs as they're prepping and cooking. This opening also serves as the truck's exhaust.

Kitchen on Wheels travels with an entourage consisting of one truck for tables, chairs and lines; a refrigerated van for fresh stocks and a truck for servers and other personnel.

VS&F has actually already received requests for Kitchen on Wheels to be displayed prominently in the catering venues so guests can watch the chefs cooking.

Abesamis says the company expects a 30-percent growth in the business as a result of Kitchen on Wheels. Already, he is planning to buy a second one soon to accommodate his clients.

VS&F is the first caterer in the Philippines to have a customized truck for cooking, just as it was first to have its own events venue.

The Grand Terrace along Commonwealth Avenue, QC, has four air-conditioned venues that can accommodate 800 guests at one time. Venus Garden can accommodate 300 guests, Lotus Garden 100 and the main pavilion, which can be divided into two, about 400 people.

VS&F has come a long way from selling food to office employees some 20 years ago. The business started when one of the Abesamis' regular clients, a clothing store manager, requested that the couple take care of the catering for her 7-year-old child's birthday party for 30 people.

"We spent P15,000 to buy five chafing dishes. We rented plates, tables, linens and even the cutlery. We hired waiters. We did the cooking. My husband drove. It was a very simple operation that we did not realize would grow into this," says Abesamis' wife, Josephine.

The secret to the company's success?

"We like to come up with something new so our customers don't get tired of us," says Josephine. "The taste of the food must be consistent. I personally make sure that the food does not fall below the high standards that we set for ourselves," Salvador adds.

COOKING CLASSES

Fondue and more

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL of Culinary Arts offers the following classes:

Nov. 9—My Pinoy Cuisine '07—all new!—Bulalo, Lengue Estofada with Minatamis Na Saba, Binagoongan Baboy Sa Gata with Stewed Tomato Sauce, Perfect Lechon Kawali with Guinataang Kamias and Manggang Hilaw Sauce, Tanglad Infused Lechong Manok with Liver Sauce, Inihaw Na Talong Sa Gata, Chicharon Rice. Sans Rival Crisps

Nov. 10—Fondue—Special Class: Learn the Art of Fondue, all new!—Cheese Fondue, two kinds; Beef Fondue Bourgignonne with Flavored Oils and All New Sauces (six sinfully yummy kinds); Seafood Fondue (four sauces), Oriental Inspired Fondue with Oriental Sauces (six kinds). Served With Flavored Rice, Pasta, Potatoes and Salad. Chocolate Fondue

Nov. 12—Divine Soups & Sandwiches '07—All New!—Soups: Divine Seafood Chowder with Herb Butter Toasted Sourdough, Super Yummy Minestrone. Grilled Ham and Brie with Fruit Compote, Grilled Cheese Steak Sandwiches with Caramelized Onions, Egg and Seafood Salad Sandwich, Best Ever Roast Beef Sandwich With Condiments, Smoked Salmon Sandwich.

Call 9289296 or 9273008.

Join Maya Kitchen for some traditional sweet holiday treats in "Pastillas Atbp.," Nov. 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.—Pastillas de Leche, Ube, Langka, Macapuno, Yema and Cookies and Cream Polvoron.

Enjoy the taste of Filipiniana with "Kakanin," Nov. 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.—Cassava Cake, Pichi Pichi, Cuchinta, Maja Nangka, Putong Puti, Bibingkang Malagkit, Homemade Salabat and commercial Bibingka as a bonus.

Rediscover the art of making delicious bread from the best ingredients in "Fundamentals of Bakery Production," Nov. 13-17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Class covers standard baking techniques applicable to baking application on the use of ready mixes, yeast, bread, quick breads, pies, cookies and cakes, plus theory practice for commercial scale productions.

Prepare different feasts in "Holiday Steaks and Roasts Galore (by popular demand)," Nov. 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.— Beef Tournados with Mustard Sauce, Crispy Salmon with Siciliana Sauce, Pan Roasted Rosemary Chicken with Basil Mashed Potatoes, Pan Jus, Roasted Pork with Applesauce and Rice Pilaf and Osso Bucco; preparation of basic steak sauce, marinades for roast beef and proper techniques of grilling are also included.

Fresh ideas for cooking are in "Basic Culinary," Nov. 20-23, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.— Proper hygiene- and safety; nutrition and nutritional cooking; use of herbs and spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. Actual preparation of dishes from appetizer all the way to dessert including garnishing for plate presentation is also included. Enrollees get a free cookbook

Call 921185 or 8925011 loc 108.

New ice cream flavor

NESTLÉ ICE CREAM BRAZO de Mercedez, a luscious new flavor, is inspired by the favorite Filipino cake dessert. It is made with swirls of cream and custard ice cream, mixed with ripples of caramel and toffee bits. Endorsed by megastar Sharon Cuneta, the Nestlé Ice Cream Brazo de Mercedez is now available in groceries and supermarkets nationwide.

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Brazo de Mercedez
P159

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OFFERS	
Goldilocks	· Free 1 pc. Sandwich Bread 400 g. for a minimum single receipt worth P350.00
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Goldilocks	5% discount on greeting cakes
HBC	Free SANSAN matte lipstick #6 4gm. for a minimum purchase of P125.00

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KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

Express yourself in chocolate

I CHANCED UPON CHOCOPIX PERsonalized Confectionery store last week. I saw the sign and had to take a peek.

I was surprised to find four young entrepreneurs working on so many interesting ways to present chocolate—as greeting cards, portraits, CDs, chocolate coins ...

Chocolography, as the technology is called, was developed by the US-based Chocolate Printing Company. It is the latest technology used to "reproduce pictures, images, logos and messages right on the surface of delicious chocolate, hard candy and cookies."

Christine Anne Cox and her family brought the business to Manila. They are proud to say they use no less than "FDA edible food coloring, the chocolates they use are imported from the Bloomer Company in the US while their truffles are imported from Belgium."

Nifty? I believe so! As their motto goes, "A treat for the eyes, a treat for the tummy, we turn your pictures into something yummy!"

Chocopix is at Unit 101 Eastside Condominium, 77 Malakas St., Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City. Call 9205911.

Whole-grain bread

I have been doing a lot of research on healthy weight-loss eating.

According to Dr. Mehmet Oz, people should eat only whole-grain bread—anything else would just be sugar in disguise.

Would you know where I can buy 100-percent whole-grain bread? Or, better yet, would you have a recipe for this?

Joanne Zapanta-Andrada

Sugar? Why, what's wrong with sugar? I love sugar, in disguise or not! Hahaha!

Joanne, of all the things to ask me, why healthy bread? All I have on my list, it seems, are the kinds laden with butter, eggs and sugar!

Why not cake? I just discovered the most *sarap* Engaña de Bobo, again by Judah Liu (tel. 8966872). Brings back memories of my childhood although this one is way better!

Nonetheless, for you I found someone who is about to have it available commercially in two weeks, the King of Bread, John Lou Koa of French Baker and L'Artizan.

His 100-percent whole-grain bread is a combination of 90-percent whole wheat and 10-percent rye flour. It has flax seeds, sesame, sunflower and oat flakes for more fiber, and is made with levain or liquid sourdough for flavor.

Expect it in all his outlets.

About the recipe, will try to source one, soonest.

Help needed

I love to cook but sometimes the food I cook does not turn out right. Like *leche flan*, I cook it for one hour in a steamer but it does not come out firm. It sags and appears soggy.

Can you please teach me the right way to cook it? I am so disappointed when my few customers are not satisfied with their purchase.

I used to sell this to my friends. I want to make even just a little money while staying at home.

Can you please share with me a recipe for fruitcake, simple but yummy and profitable for Christmas.

Gerry Jr. Vigilia

Since the food business has become terribly competitive, even for home-based entrepreneurs, the best way to compete is to come up with new and exciting products.

This fruitcake cookie recipe is one of those exciting twists on a classic. It is also far cheaper and easier to make than the regular fruitcake.

About your *leche flan*, it must be your proportions that are all wrong or perhaps it is your method of steaming. This recipe will make your *leche flan* perfect on the first try.

Good luck Gerry at *Maligayang Pasko*!

White Fruit Cake Cookies

1 c each brown and white sugar
1 c butter
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
2 c all-purpose flour
1 tsp each baking soda, baking powder
¼ tsp salt
1 tsp cinnamon
½ tsp each nutmeg and ground ginger
1½ c oatmeal
1 c mixed fruits (soaked overnight in 1 c rum, after soaking, drain)
1 c dates or raisins, soaked in rum until plump (drain), optional
½ c nuts, toasted and chopped, optional

Beat butter and sugars for five minutes. Add eggs one at a time, beating for 30 seconds after each addition.

Combine dry ingredients, sift together.

Add dry ingredients gradually. Mix well. Add fruit and raisins. Chill dough overnight.

Drop a spoonful at a time on a greased baking sheet.

Bake for 12-15 minutes on a preheated 350°F oven.

Leche Flan

Caramel
1 c sugar
½ c water
1 tsp vinegar (so sugar does not crystallize)

Put sugar, water and vinegar in a saucepan over low heat.

Cook until caramelized/light amber in color.

Pour caramelized sugar into a buttered mold.

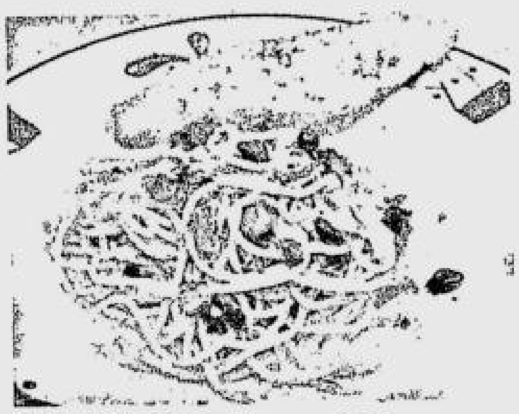
Flan:
8 large yolks
1 big can condensed milk
1/3 c evaporated milk (I like Alpine)
1/3 c water

Combine yolks, condensed and evaporated milk, water in a bowl and mix lightly. Pour yolk mixture into mold. Cover with foil and steam for 45 minutes. When cooked, turn mold over onto a plate or serving platter to release the *leche flan*.

Remember, the water pan of steamer should be ¾ full. Make sure the water has been on running boil for at least seven minutes before putting *leche flan*. in to steam.

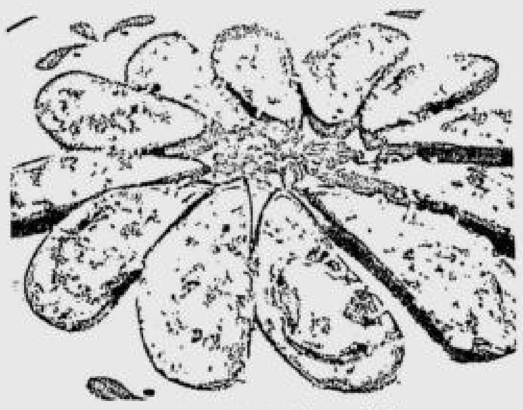
E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

BELIEVE it or not, everything in this photo is edible.



AGLIO Olio with Anchovy and Capers

AMERICAN Baked Spareribs



BAKED Mussels with Garlic and Cheese

Home sweet . . .

From page D1

favorite family recipes.

Baked Mussels with Garlic

400 g mussels, blanched (24 medium-size pc)
6 tbsp butter, softened
1 tbsp garlic, peeled and minced
2 tbsp Knorr seasoning
½ c pizza cheese, grated
6 g parsley, finely chopped

Mix butter, garlic, Knorr seasoning and pizza cheese in a mixing bowl. Top with the butter-cheese mixture.

Bake for 3-5 minutes.

Serve with a thin slice of lemon and sprinkle with parsley.

Carbonara

2 tbsp mixed oil
1 tbsp garlic, peeled and minced
80 g raw bacon bits and ends
2 tsp Don Garcia red wine
½ pc beef cube
¼ tsp iodized salt
¼ tsp pepper, white ground
1 c white sauce
260 g spaghetti pasta
1 pc egg yolk
¼ tsp parsley finely chopped
½ tsp parmesan cheese
2 pc garlic bread, toasted
360 g (cooked weight) spaghetti pasta,

Blanch the pasta.

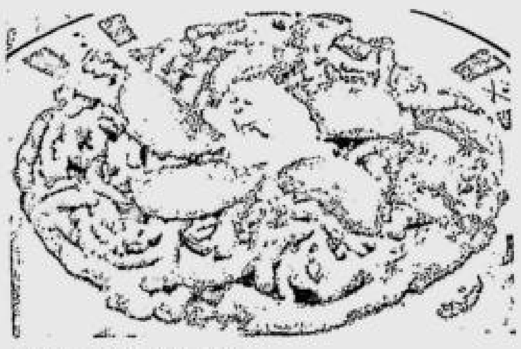
Heat mixed oil in a pan and saute garlic. Add bacon bits and ends and red wine, then cook for about one minute.

Add beef cubes, salt and pepper.

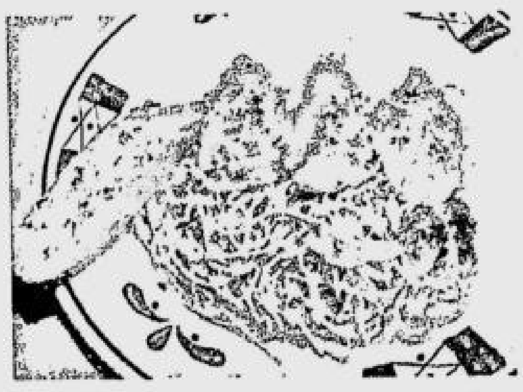
Toss the pasta. Add white sauce and finish with fresh egg yolk.

Sprinkle parmesan and top with parsley. Serve with a slice of garlic bread.

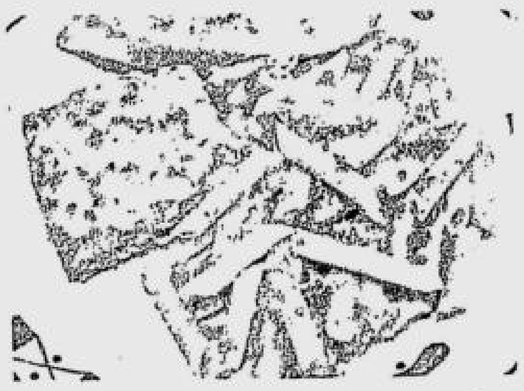
THE SALCEDO Village branch features Batibot chairs.



FRIED Spaghetti Cake



CHICKEN Piccata with Garlic Spaghetti



EGGPLANT Parmigiana with Penne Pomodoro

THE GUERREROS use vintage items in keeping with the "old" theme.

Health-friendly premium pasta

"AN AFTERNOON JAZZ Serenade at Serendra (a turkey and pasta degustacion)" was held recently at the Serendra Piazza, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Using Amigo Premium Pasta, chefs of Chelsea Market & Café, Choco-late de Batirol and Duo Steakhouse created seafood and laing pastas and macaroni salad. Carlo Miguel of Mezzaluna demonstrated how to do handmade pasta for students of Le Cordon Bleu Manille, flagship of Ecole de Cuisine Manille, Inc.

Amigo Premium Pasta is distributed by La Filipina Uygongco Corporation.

Laing Pasta

By Choco-late de Batirol
450 g Amigo Premium Spaghetti
½ c butter
2 c *laing*
4 tbsp parmesan cheese
4 tbsp Spanish paprika
4 tbsp *lapu-lapu* flakes

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook pasta in boiling water for 8-10 minutes or until al dente; drain.

Saute prepared *laing* sauce in butter.

Put spaghetti on a pasta plate, then add *laing* and mix.

Top with parmesan cheese, Spanish paprika and *lapu-lapu* flakes.

Seafood Pasta/Saffron-infused Tomato Cream Sauce

By Chelsea
450 g Amigo Premium Spaghetti
4 tbsp olive oil
2 tbsp chopped onions
2 tbsp chopped garlic
2 pc bay leaf
4 pc mussels
4 pc tiger prawns
4 pc squid rings
2 pinch saffron
½ c white wine
1 c cooking cream
1 c crushed tomatoes

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook pasta in boiling water for 8-10 minutes or until al dente; drain.

Heat oil in a skillet over low heat; cook onion till translucent then cook garlic until golden. Add saffron and bay leaf.

Add mixed seafood then white wine and reduce by half.

Add crushed tomatoes and cream. Cook for 4 minutes stirring occasionally.

Toss pasta with sauce. Season with salt and pepper and serve.

Tuna Macaroni Pasta Salad

By Duo
400 g Amigo Premium Elbow Macaroni
500 g lettuce, red and green
2 c tuna chunks
2 c olive oil
½ c red and green capsicum
½ c sun-dried tomatoes
½ c basil
½ c chives
½ c parsley
½ c balsamic vinegar
½ c parmesan cheese, grated
¼ c shallots

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook pasta in boiling water for 8-10 minutes or until al dente; drain.

Toss macaroni and tuna chunks in a mixture of balsamic vinegar and olive oil.

Add remaining ingredients one at a time, except for grated parmesan cheese.

In a salad bowl, arrange lettuces in flower form.

Put macaroni salad mixture on top of lettuce. Sprinkle with grated parmesan cheese.

CHELSEA's seafood pasta (above); Amigo Premium Pasta

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

EN INMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

nquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Ai Ai's biggest frustration

The comedy artist has yet to hit gold in music

By Pocholo Concepcion

AI AI DE LAS ALAS HAS ONE BIG frustration.

Until now, she has yet to see any of her past three novelty albums turn gold. It's a big deal for her, since music had a lot to do with how she was discovered in show biz—belting out songs by Madonna and Zsa Zsa Padilla in a sing-along bar in the 1980s.

Ai Ai, who has since made it big as a TV comedienne with a string of successful movies to boot, was talking to the entertainment press to promote her major concert on Nov. 16 at the Araneta Coliseum.

A tabloid columnist surmises that piracy is to blame for Ai Ai's disappointment: "*Baka naman yung* album *mo 'pag nilabas ng umaga, pagdating ng hapon*, pirated na."

Ai Ai quips: "Classic *nga yung sabi sa 'kin ng isang* Muslim, *'alam niyo ma'm ang lakas-lakas sa amin nung* album niyo.'"

A few pensive seconds later, Ai Ai remembers what his manager Boy Abunda told her: *"Huwag mo na isipin 'yon, hayaan mo na, baka hindi ka talaga pang-ganon."*

Talk shifts to the concert scene. Ai Ai, 43, says she didn't really get to watch live musical performances while growing up in a poor family. *"Ang una kong concert na napanood si*

AI-AI/ E2

WHAT'S ON ROBINSONS

[redacted]

Go *senti* over this band's lyrical rock ballads.

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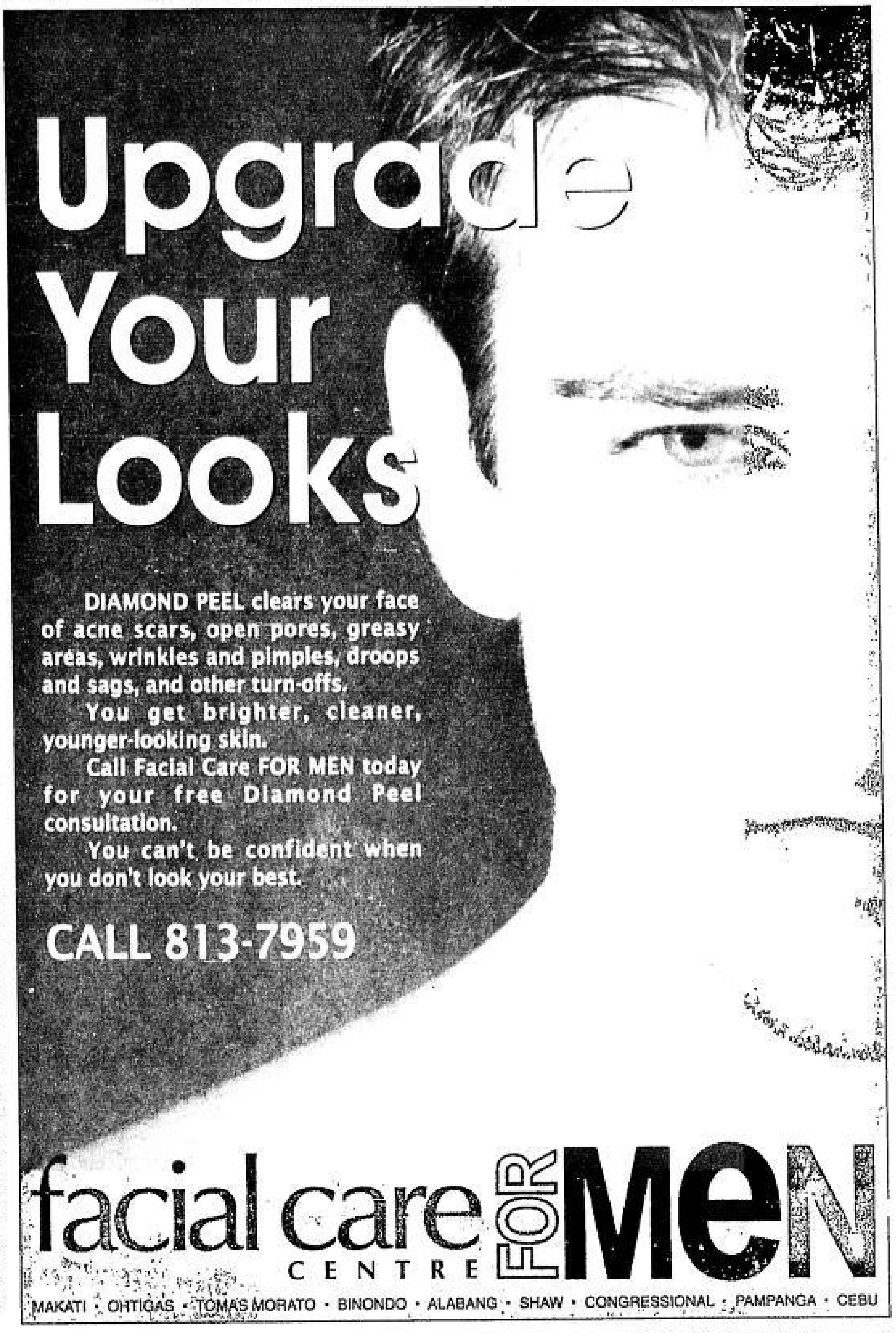

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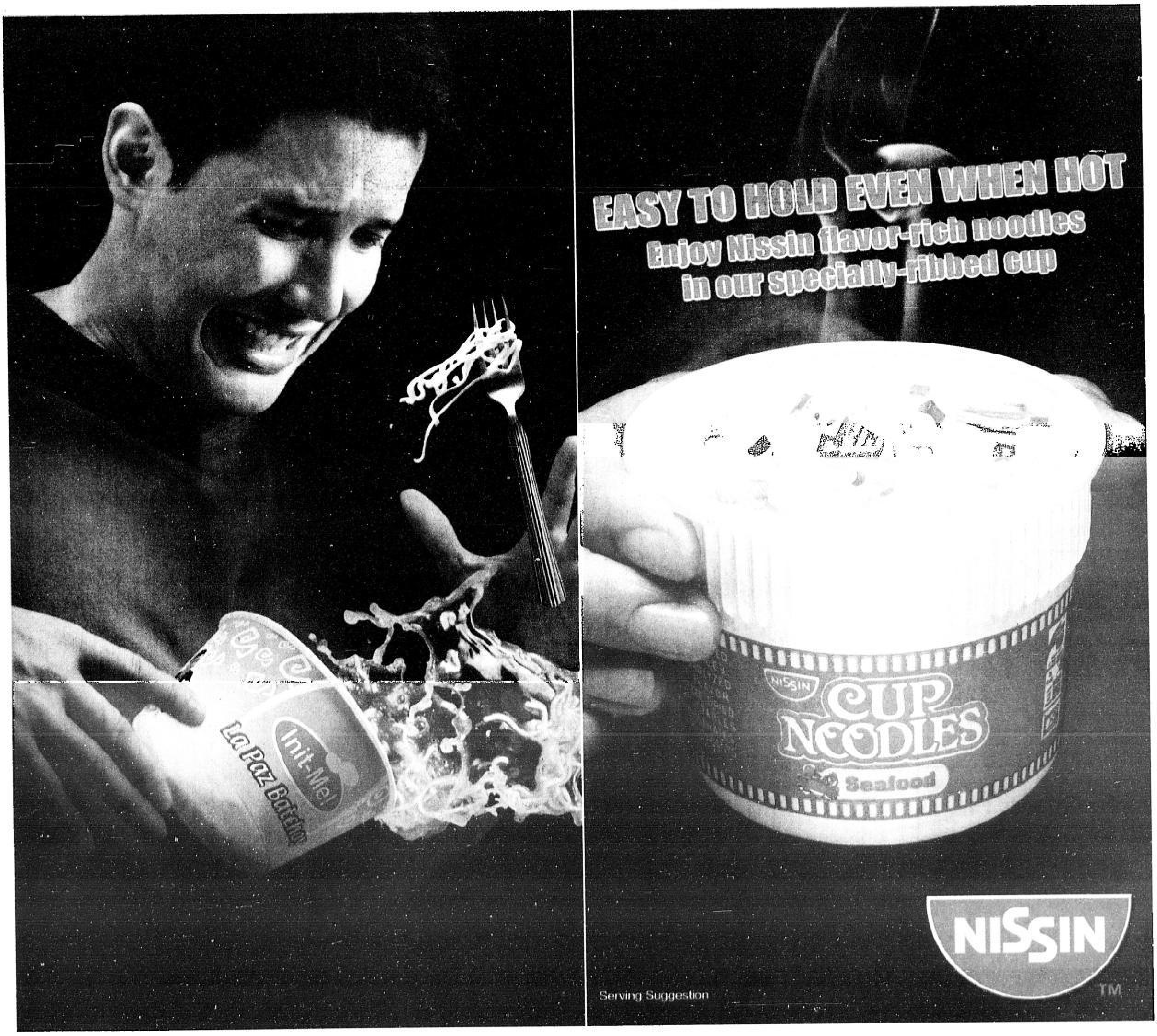
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2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 GHOST SON
2 BUKAS MY UMAGA
3 MAKAMUNDO
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 KALAPATI
3 STURDUST
4 MAKAMUNDO
5 UNREST

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 UNREST
3 RETRIBUTION
4 HIDE & SEEK

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PLEASE CALL
2

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GALLERIA
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1 LIONS for LAMBS • THX
2 EL CANTANTE
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 GHOST SON
5 GAME PLAN
6 ATAUL for RENT
7 LUST CAUTION
8 indieSine: 25 MINUTES LATER
9 HIDE and SEEK
10 30 DAYS of NIGHT
BALLS of FURY

ERMITA

1 GAME PLAN
2 GHOST SON
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 LIONS for LAMBS
5 30 DAYS of NIGHT
6 EL CANTANTE
7 LUST CAUTION

Midtown

1 HIDE and SEEK
2 ATAUL for RENT
3 BALLS of FURY

now showing at indieSine

2 minutes LATER
(USA)
Director: Robert Gaston

Film noir comes out of the celluloid, closet in this sexy and smart thriller about murder and mistaken identity. When Kyle, a hunky and egotistical gay photographer, vanishes under mysterious circumstances, his equally hunky estranged gay twin brother, Michael, and smart-talking lesbian private detective, Abigail, search for cluesto his disappearance. As they investigate his sordid world, a killer sets out to stop them

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MTRCB Rating R18

METRO EAST
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1 LUST CAUTION
2 GAME PLAN
3 EL CANTANTE
4 ATAUL for RENT
5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
6 GHOST SON
7 HIDE and SEEK
8 BALLS of FURY
30 DAYS of NIGHT

NOVALICHES
Ticket Price P100 936-3231 / 936-3228-30

1 30 DAYS of NIGHT
2 GAME PLAN
3 HIDE and SEEK
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

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3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 EL CANTANTE

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2 HIDE and SEEK
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 HALLOWEEN

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1 UNREST
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 RETRIBUTION

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2 HIDE and SEEK
3 UNREST
4 LUST CAUTION

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1 HIDE and SEEK
2 LUST CAUTION
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 BALLS of FURY

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1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 HIGHLANDER

TARLAC

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 RENDITION

STARMILLS

1 MR. WOODSTOCK
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 HIGHLANDER
4 HALLOWEEN
5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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2 MR. WOODSTOCK
3 RETRIBUTION
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 HIGHLANDER
6 indieSine: GULONG

ILOILO
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1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIDE and SEEK
4 STARDUST
5 KUNG FU FIGHTER
6 UNREST

A FILM BY SOCKIE FERNANDEZ

GULONG is a moving love story of a couple separated by time, who find themselves together again in the sunset of their lives. It is about friendship, love and life. The story is told from the point of view of Apao, a smart, kindhearted boy whose quest for an old bicycle reveals the stuff he is made of...

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD
MTRCB Rating: G
November 07 to 13

Ai Ai's biggest . . .

From page E1

Randy Santiago. *Kasi maka-Randy ako. Siyempre tulala ako, parang,* wow, *ganon pala yon."*

But Ai Ai is so amazed at how she found herself holding a microphone singing in front of many people and, later, acting and having fun in front of a camera: "*Hindi ko na-*imagine *ang sarili ko na magko-*concert *balang araw. Hindi ko nga naisip ba't ako nag-artista. Siguro* destiny *ko talaga. Ang parati lang iniisip ko, makatulong sa pamilya ko. Makapagtrabaho, makapunta sa ibang bansa kasi gusto ko maging* stewardess."

Madonna fan

As for the type of concerts that appeal to her, Ai Ai singles out one name: "Idol *ko si* Madonna."

Asked what she likes about Madonna, Ai Ai cites the American pop superstar's daring character: "*Para sa kin, siya ang* greatest innovator of one's career. *Yung lahat ginawa niya,* reinventing herself, from 'Like a Virgin' days, onwards. *May napanood akong* concert *niya* on DVD recently, 46 *na siya pero nakataob, yung ulo niya nasa ibaba at yung paa nasa itaas, kaya yung mga tao* pandemonium *talaga."*

Ai Ai loves to shock audiences whenever she performs, and this forthcoming concert at the Big Dome is no exception.

A surprising request, however, is in order: "*Wag magdala ng bata.* For mature audience *lang ito, para di tayo mag-*compromise, *masaya kayo, masaya din ako."*

"*Pero* majority *ng* fans *mo bata,"* the columnist protests.

"*Totoo,"* Ai Ai admits. "*Mga* one or two-year-old kids *kilala ako. Sa* TV *at* movies *ko na lang sila paliligayahin. Pero pag* live show, for adults *ako."*

Asked why children love her, Ai Ai replies: "*Ewan ko, siguro dahil natatawa sila sa kin at alam nila na nanay ako na may mga anak, parang nanay na rin nila ko."*

The need to reciprocate the acceptance that children have shown her causes Ai Ai to harp on the issue of recording more albums. "*Gusto ko yung kakantahin at sasayawin ng mga bata,"* she says. "*Parang* 'Ocho-Ocho' *ni* Bayani Agbayani *dati. Kasi hindi ako maka-*hit *talaga e. Siguro in* due time."

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MARC ANTHONY
EL CANTANTE
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a film by Lamberto Bava
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LAURA HARRING
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PETE POSTLETHWAITE
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SHANG CINEPLEX

1 **LIONS FOR LAMBS**
MTRCB PG-13 12:40
3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

2 **THE GAME PLAN**
MTRCB GP 12:00
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

3 **WE OWN THE NIGHT**
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

4 **BALLS OF FURY**
MTRCB GP 1:10
3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE – **LUST CAUTION** (R-18)
12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30

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BALLS OF FURY **G** 1:45,3:45 **30 DAYS OF NIGHT** **R13** 5:35,7:50,10:05	**GAME PLAN** **G** 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	**EL CANTANTE** 12:30,3:00,5:10, 8:00,10:30
WE OWN THE NIGHT **R13** 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30	**LUST CAUTION** **R18** 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10	**LIONS FOR LAMBS** **PG13** 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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CINEMA 1 **LUST CAUTION** 10:35, 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35 R18

CINEMA 2 **EL CANTANTE** 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 **WE OWN THE NIGHT** 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35

CINEMA 4 **LIONS FOR LAMBS** 10:30, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 PG-13

CINEMA 5 **GAMEPLAN** 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 GP

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MUSIC MUSEUM

November 9&10, 16&17, 23&24	"Into the Woods" musical	8:00 PM
November 15, 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM
November 20, 2007	Angelus	8:00 PM
November 22, 2007	Body Builders	6:00 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Nov. 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

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NONI BUENCAMINO COCO MARTIN
Music NONONG BUENCAMINO Special participation RAMON ZAMORA
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Executive Producer ANTHONY V. GEDANG
Written and Directed by NEAL TAN
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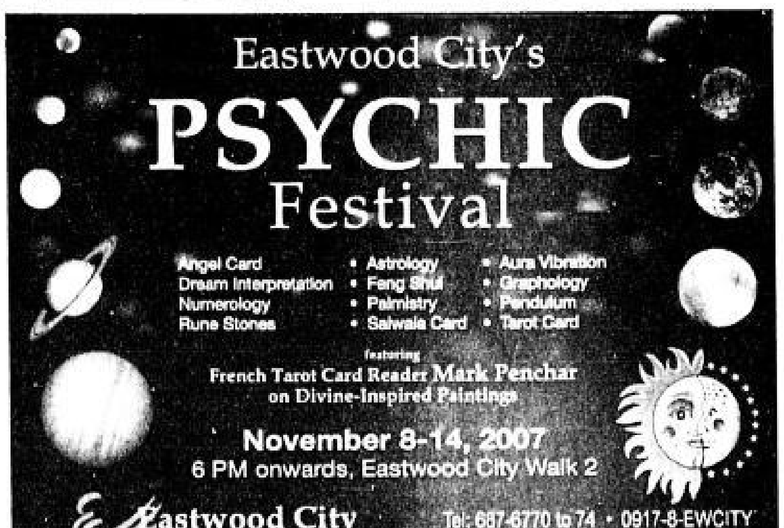

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12:55, 3:20, 5:55, 8:35, 11:00
R-13

GAMEPLAN
1:15, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05
G

LIONS FOR LAMBS
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
PG-13

LUST, CAUTION
1:35, 4:35, 7:45,10:55
R-18

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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GLORIETTA 1	1 LIONS FOR LAMBS	2 THE GAME PLAN	3 BALLS OF FURY	4 ATAUL FOR RENT
GLORIETTA 4	1 WE OWN THE NIGHT	2 EL CANTANTE	3 THX LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LUST CAUTION	5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	6 THE GAME PLAN	7 RENDITION
GREENBELT 1	1 LUST CAUTION	2 EL CANTANTE		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE GAME PLAN GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 LUST CAUTION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE GAME PLAN	2 LIONS FOR LAMBS		
	3 WE OWN THE NIGHT	4 LUST CAUTION	5 EL CANTANTE	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 WE OWN THE NIGHT	2 BALLS OF FURY	3 WEDDING DAZE	4 HALLOWEEN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE GAME PLAN	2 LUST CAUTION		
	3 EL CANTANTE	4 LIONS FOR LAMBS	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT	
TRINOMA	1 LUST CAUTION	2 EL CANTANTE	3 WE OWN THE NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 BALLS OF FURY	6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	7 THX THE GAME PLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	

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AT THE MALLS

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Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	Seussical The Musical November 7 to 9; 11:30am, 3pm and 6pm; Activity Center
GREENBELT	The Tasting Room October 15 to December 31, 2007
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	TOWN NIGHTS featuring The Bloomfields Live! November 10; 6pm; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Installment Madness November 6 to 15; Paseos, Intersections and Rotunda Area
MARKET! MARKET!	Home for the Holidays Outlet Sale November 5 to 8; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	2007 Shell National Students Art Exhibition - 100 Best Entries & Winners November 8 to 18, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Kuh Ledesma with the UP Jazz Ensemble November 4; 6pm; Activity Center

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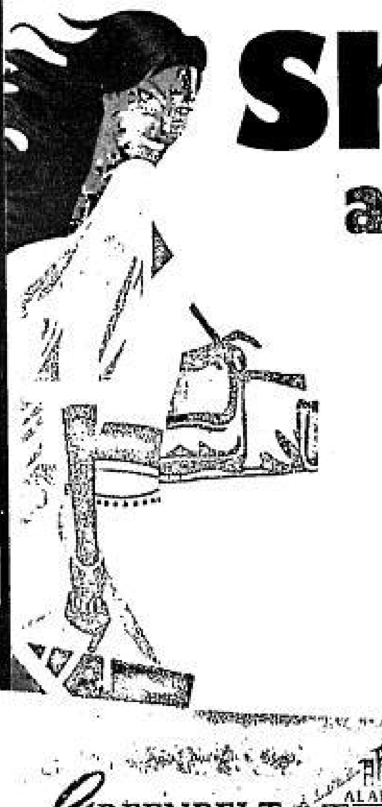

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*Winners were drawn on October 25, 2007 at Ayala Malls Group Office, 5/F Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City under the supervision of a DTI Representative.

*Promo Period: Aug. 17 – Oct. 19, 2007

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-520, Series of 2007

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

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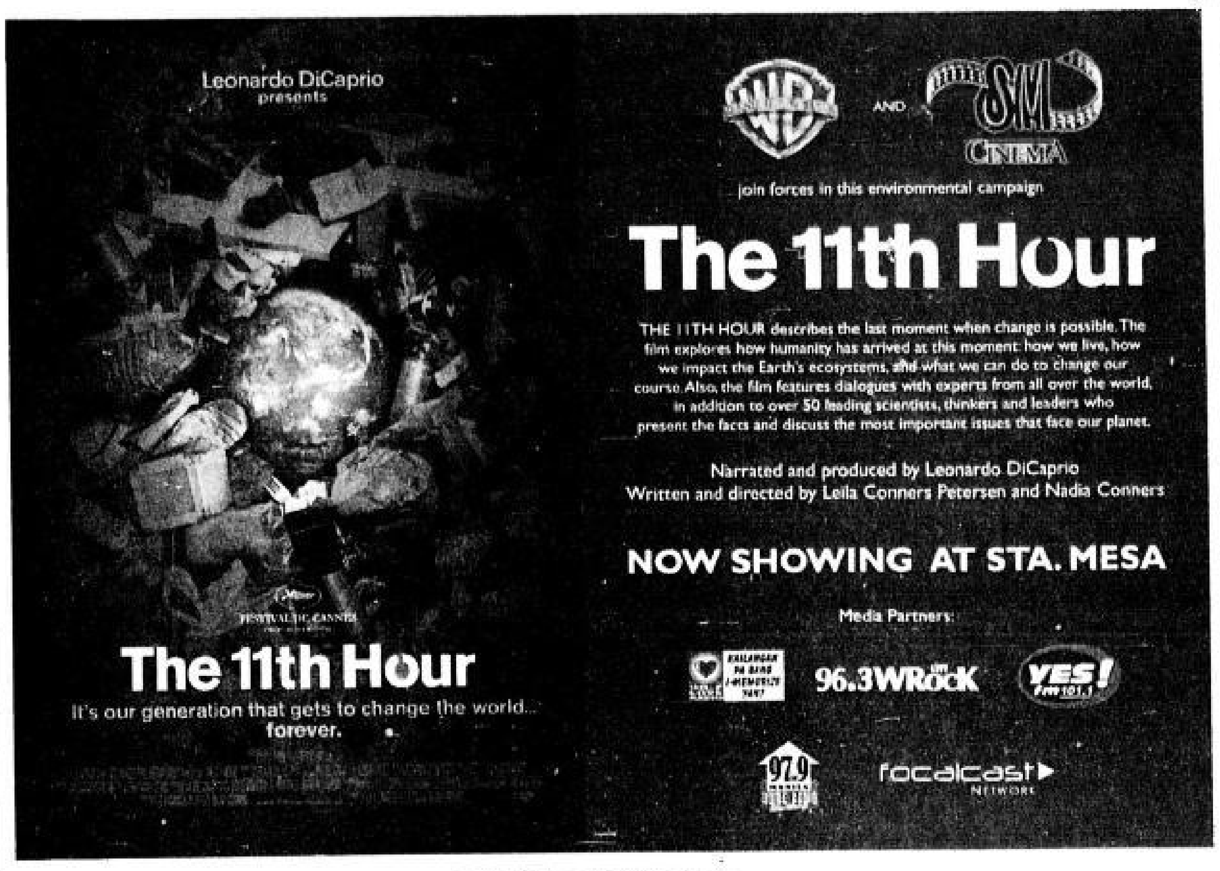
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1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 EL CANTANTE
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1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 EL CANTANTE
3 STARDUST
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 LIONS FOR LAMBS
8 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
9 GHOST SON
10 ATAUL FOR RENT
11 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
12 BALLS OF FURY

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5 GHOST SON
6 LIONS FOR LAMBS
7 ATAUL FOR RENT
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 BALLS OF FURY
10 HIDE & SEEK
11 STARDUST
12 EL CANTANTE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5 STARDUST
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
10 HALLOWEEN
11 EL CANTANTE
12 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 11TH HOUR
3 EL CANTANTE
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT/HALLOWEEN
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 ATAUL FOR RENT
9 BALLS OF FURY
10 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 BALLS OF FURY/HALLOWEEN
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 ATAUL FOR RENT
5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
6 HIDE AND SEEK

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 EL CANTANTE
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 THE GAME PLAN
6 BALLS OF FURY
7 GHOST SON
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 THE GAME PLAN
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 HIDE & SEEK
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 THE GAME PLAN
2 LIONS FOR LAMBS
3 ATAUL FOR RENT
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 **RESERVED**
7 EL CANTANTE
8 HALLOWEEN
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11 GHOST SON
12 BALLS OF FURY

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 UNREST

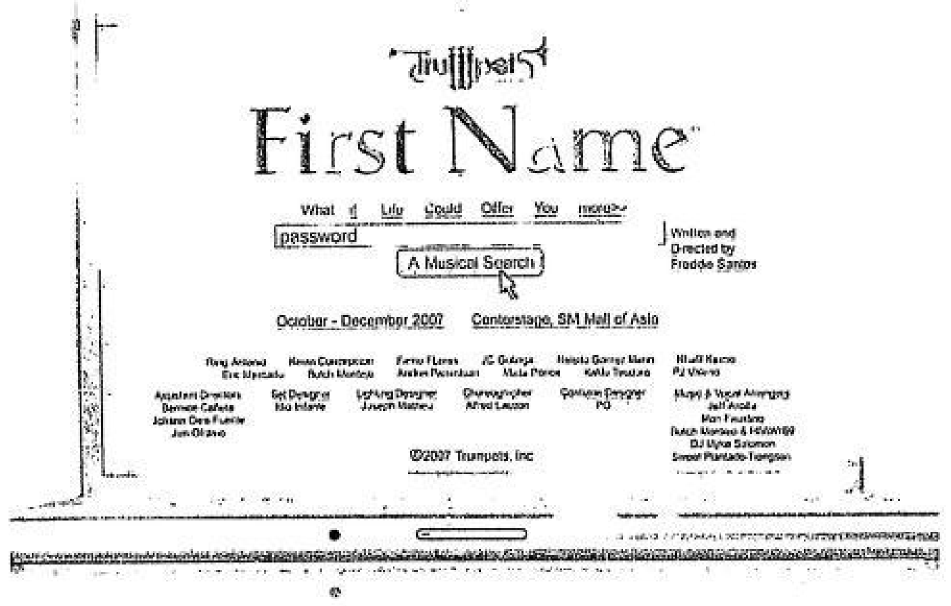
SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 HALLOWEEN
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CINEMA CENTERStage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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 THE SEEKER, HIDE & SEEK RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HALLOWEEN
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 UNREST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 ATAUL FOR RENT
8 BALLS OF FURY

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 STARDUST
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 UNREST
4 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 ATAUL FOR RENT
4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 HIDE & SEEK

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 UNREST
4 RETRIBUTION

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RETRIBUTION
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 GHOST SON
2 HALLOWEEN
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811

1 RETRIBUTION
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 HIDE & SEEK
4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 STARDUST
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 HALLOWEEN

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2 DECEMBER BOYS/ THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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2 HALLOWEEN
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 STARDUST
6 EVENING
7 **RESERVED**
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

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3 BALLS OF FURY
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 STARDUST
6 KUNG FU FIGHTER
7 HIDE & SEEK
8 HALLOWEEN

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4 HIDE AND SEEK

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'Transformers' star detained

DID YOU KNOW...

CHICAGO—SHIA LABEOUF WAS charged with misdemeanor criminal trespassing after the "Transformers" star refused to leave a Chicago drug store, police said Sunday.

A security guard told LaBeouf that he needed to leave the Walgreens store because he appeared to be drunk, police said.

When LaBeouf, 21, refused to leave, the security guard detained him and called police at about 2:30 a.m., according to police spokeswoman Laura Kubiak.

After he was arrested, police noted that LaBeouf was "very courteous and polite," Kubiak said. Police said he posted bond before 7 a.m.

AP

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Half his size, twice the trouble
...and she's moving in.
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Walt Disney Pictures presents
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OPENS NOVEMBER 14

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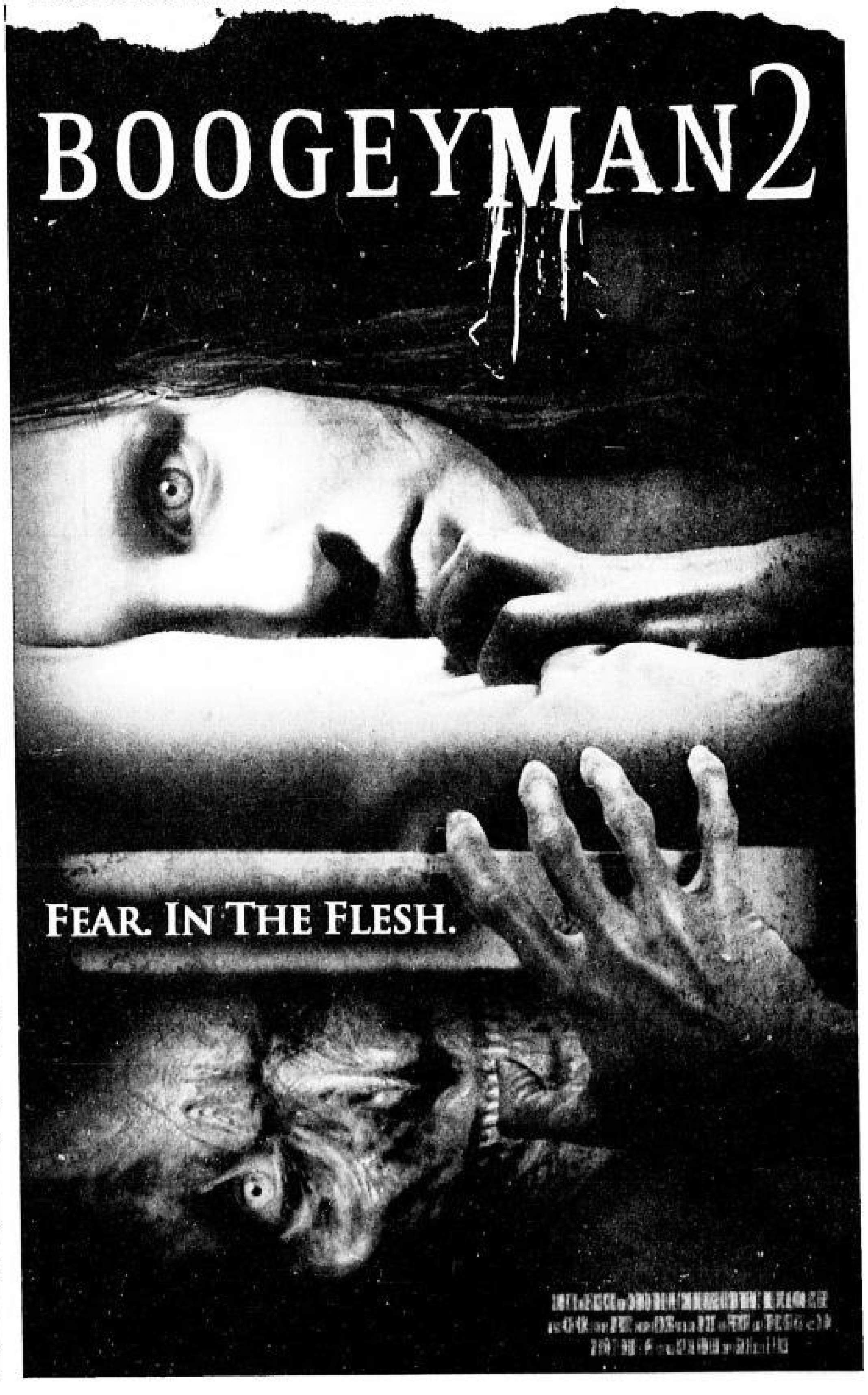
FROM SAM RAIMI THE DIRECTOR OF "*SPIDERMAN 1,2&3*"



Talent is the gift that should keep on giving

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ONE PET INVOLVEMENT OF OURS IS the development of new performing, writing and directing talents, and we're gratified to see quite a number of the students we've been mentoring now doing good work in the biz.

On the *other* hand, we're also keen on encouraging veteran but relatively inactive talents to be productive again and resume moving and delighting viewers with their well-honed skills.

Veteran talents are an even more important resource, because their experience and maturity are worth their price in gold, in terms of the insights, subtlety and power they've gained through the years.

In the final analysis, however, distinctions between youths and seniors are irrelevant.

Whether young or "old," talent should be the gift that keeps on giving.

That's because *real* talent isn't easy to come by these days. Standards have been lowered so drastically that many non- or mediocre talents have managed to squeeze into the industry, confusing viewers about what genuine ability really is.

Thus, it's important for *real* talents, both new and experienced, to keep working, so that quality levels can be restored.

Youth-oriented industry

That isn't easy to do for new talents, because they have to compete against so many newcomers, quite a number of whom are better-connected or -funded than the genuine finds.

Senior talents have another kind of problem: The industry is youth-oriented, so seniors are generally relegated to cameo or supporting roles that don't take advantage of their well-developed skills—especially on TV soaps or *fantaseryes*, which often reduce seniors to caricature or gargoyles.

All the more reason, then, for people who value talent to make it easier for gifted senior players to get acting assignments again—not just any assignment, but meaty roles that they can really sink their acting teeth into.

Sometimes, this can bring swift results. A couple of years ago, we started casting some "semi-retired" veteran stars in our theater and TV productions, and industry people who saw them acting again began offering them follow-up roles in even more showy TV and movie projects—and we've all been the better for it.

Comeback productions are also good for senior talents because they remind the viewing public that they're still very much around, as talented as ever.

A sad aspect of the local performing scene is our thoughtless treatment of some of our best talents—just because they're on the wrong side of 50, we throw them away like used tissue.

This also holds true for our senior writers and directors, some of whom still have a lot of great stories to tell, tales made even more significant by the insights they've gained through the years. Let's make it easier for these "golden" talents to keep on giving.

Feeback

From Paul R. Mortel of Marikina City: "Congratulations for winning the prestigious Catholic Mass Media Award for Best Entertainment Column. You certainly deserve it.

Keep on 'entertaining' PDI readers. God bless.

"PS: I recently discovered 'Music and Memories,' 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays on dzMM, hosted by Boots Anson-Roa and Willie Nepomuceno. I immediately sent them letters about my 'memories,' like the Ramon Lee Restaurant on Ronquillo Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila, which served a 'lauriat' meal for only P11!

"This was during the '60s. The lauriat meal was such a huge hit that, while you were still eating it, other people were already standing near your table, impatiently waiting for you to vacate your seat."

MELISSA George and Josh Hartnett in "30 Days of Night"

Nocturnal beasties party

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

A YOUNG SHERIFF AND HIS ESTRANGED wife (Josh Hartnett and Melissa George) hide from a horde of savage vampires in the not-so-scary horror movie "30 Days of Night." Based on the comic book series by Steve Niles and Ben Templesmith, this new film fleshes out key characters, removes others, and adds new supporting ones to serve the adaptation better.

Adjustments aside, it's still about the unique Alaskan town of Barrow, which is periodically deprived of sunlight for weeks and is inevitably attacked by hungry bloodsuckers. The pillagers have a month of complete darkness to feast on the helpless humans, whom they divested of ways to communicate with the outside world.

Excellent makeup

"30 Days of Night" benefits from Niles' co-scripting, and David Slade's direction. It's not always smooth, however. But even when the narrative gets quite choppy, Hartnett, George, plus Ben Foster (as a trouble-making vampire wannabe) and the rest of the cast contribute decently to co-create this besieged world.

The excellent vampire makeup gives the unwelcome visitors their distinctive look, too, and the move to the big screen has allowed them to sound scary as well. Their unnerving shrieks and beastly grunts amplify their horrid, blood-stained faces quite well.

The physical conflicts effectively stun the viewer from time to time, but three things keep this endeavor from becoming something truly special and outstanding.

First, the vampires here are just flat, generic beasties. Sure, it's not always necessary to have some backgrounder on monster culture to make horror stories easier to digest. But this film needs it. The nocturnal creatures of "30 Days" would've been more interesting had their origins been hinted at properly. Instead, we get an undead leader who spews twisted fortune cookie lingo and tired villain clichés. Immersing vampire lore, if done right, would've made the menace palatable and enriched on our end.

Second, the progression of time isn't believable. Weeks pass, and except for some of the male survivors' growing facial hair, it's hard to see any convincing visible change with the hiding humans. In connection with this, such a small town would've been scoured clean by a powerful invading force after just a few days.

Cold weather or not, the monsters' combined super-senses would've tracked all their prey eventually. One month is just too long for the last few humans to remain undetected.

Weak climax

Lastly, the climactic confrontation looks weak. In the comics, co-creator Templesmith isn't that strong a storyteller, or an artist with command of clarity. But one of the panels that he drew impressively was that crucial showdown scene. The sheriff character's ultimate act of bravery is replicated in the movie, but the succeeding quick fight lacks impact and stylish spattering.

As a result, "30 Days of Night" isn't as frightening as it should've been. The supernatural monster attacks are mostly tightly choreographed, regardless, and feel as if they're going for a shaky, breakneck "28 Days Later" vibe.

But it's good that the film's integral human drama elements, replete with themes of forgiveness and sacrifice, survive and are executed creatively.

'Game Plan' relies on usual family playbook

LOS ANGELES—THE GAME PLAN behind "The Game Plan" was obvious from the movie's trailer and poster: Look, The Rock's back, but now he's a lovable lug, a softie learning to embrace his paternal side and hang with the wee ones.

Like Vin Diesel's "The Pacifier," Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's "The Game Plan" aims to turn an action-movie bruiser into a benign father figure.

And the same as Diesel, Johnson manages enough charisma to overcome an often awkward performance and at least provide a likable anchor for this lazily plotted, vacuously predictable tale of an egomaniacal football star dealing with a daughter he never knew he had.

Calculated step

It's the second football flick in a row for Johnson, who played college ball before turning pro wrestler. Coming on the heels of the teen-oriented drama "Gridiron Gang," "The Game Plan" looks like the next calculated step to broaden Johnson's appeal to include every person on the planet.

The big guy who got his big-screen break as Mathayus the Scorpion King in 2001's "The Mummy Returns" and its spin-off "The Scorpion King" now has another regal moniker, Joe "The King" Kingman, superstar quarterback of the Boston Rebels (and for some reason, the substitution of fake pro football teams for the real thing is particularly cloying here).

The vainglorious Joe is fond of telling fans, teammates and the media that he's No. 1 on the field and No. 1 in their hearts. He's on the last leg of his drive to win the championship that has eluded his team, he's a swinging ladies man, he's got all the stuff he thinks he ever wanted, from a hot sports car to an apartment filled with memorabilia of his musical idol, Elvis Presley.

He's also got an 8-year-old daughter he knew nothing about from a brief marriage in his youth. Little spitfire Peyton (Madison Pettis) shows up at Joe's door one day saying she needs to bunk with him for a month while her mom's in Africa doing humanitarian work.

Inept gags

Director Andy Fickman ("She's the Man") and screenwriters Nichole Millard and Kathryn Price deliver a prolonged series of klutzy, inept dad gags and scenarios, all leading to the inevitable warm fuzzies you knew were coming before you walked in the theater.

Finally, we get the chance to watch The Rock coo "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" then dance with little girls in tutus to Electric Light Orchestra's "Mr. Blue Sky."

Annoying

Both Johnson and Pettis are annoying in their own ways early on, he from a fairly graceless impersonation of a man impossibly full of himself, she from a nasally shrillness that creeps into her know-it-all demeanor.

To their credit, they become richer, more personable characters as they warm up to each other, though that could be a viewer's brain synapses dozing off as the vapidity deepens.

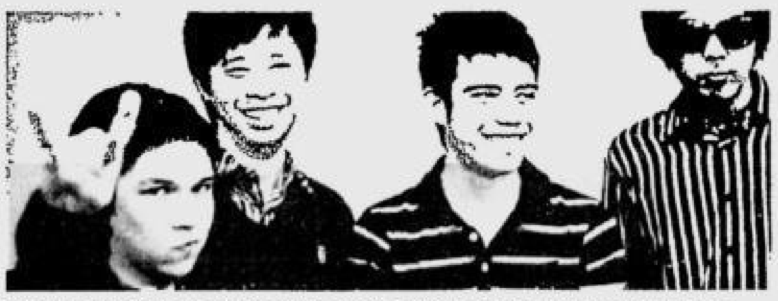
The supporting players mainly amount to glorified extras, particularly Kyra Sedgwick, who blusters about as Joe's agent, a tough cookie with the ridiculous name Stella Peck.

Roselyn Sanchez is a nominal love interest for Joe as a ballet teacher who takes Peyton under her wing, while Morris Chestnut co-stars as a teammate with kids of his own who coaches Joe on the pleasures and perils of parenthood.

It's certainly a good-hearted story, and the movie does offer a little plot twist that deviates from the usual formula. After that, though, "The Game Plan" quickly reverts to the established playbook for safe, sappy family fare. *David Germain, AP*

REVIEW

DWAYNE "The Rock" Johnson and Madison Pettis in "Game Plan"



THE BAND (from L): Mark Escueta, Mike Elgar, Jayson Fernandez and Japs Sergio.

Rivermaya's new member

AT THE GRAND FINALS OF the search for Rivermaya's new member, Jayson Fernandez wanted to jump with joy when he heard his name being called as the winning choice.

All he could say was, *"Salamat sa inyong lahat, dati pinapanuod ko lang sila, tinitingnan sa litrato… ngayon kasama ko na sila!"*

The odds nearly went against Jayson's favor, as De La Salle University's Hans Dimayuga, 19, garnered the most number of text votes and got the judges' approval for best original song.

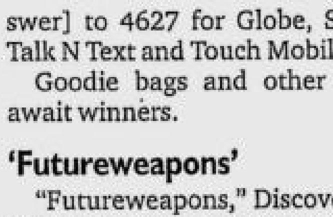
But Jayson, an 18-year-old native of Manguisoc, Camarines Norte, won the judges'—and the band's—nod with his rendition of the Rivermaya classic, "Himala."

"It was as if he was asking the whole world for a miracle and make his dream come true," said judge Francis Reyes, The Dawn guitarist and NU 107 music director.

Goodie bags on fright nights

CLICK!

WHILE PLAYING AROUND WITH GRIM'S scythe, Billy accidentally breaks all the toys in Santa's workshop in Cartoon Network's "The Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy," which airs weekdays until Nov. 16, from 6 to 7 p.m.



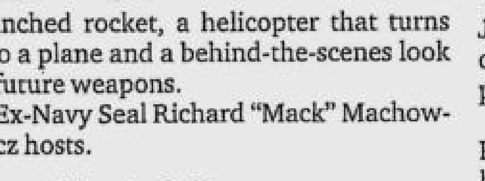
Kids who can spot the broken toys that will appear in each episode may text CN FRIGHT [answer] to 4627 for Globe, Sun, Smart, Talk N Text and Touch Mobile.

Goodie bags and other prizes await winners.

'Futureweapons'

"Futureweapons," Discovery Channel's series on military weapons development, returns on its second season.

Airing every Thursday starting Nov. 22, the program features the latest shoulder launched rocket, a helicopter that turns into a plane and a behind-the-scenes look at future weapons.



Ex-Navy Seal Richard "Mack" Machowicz hosts.

'Foody Call'

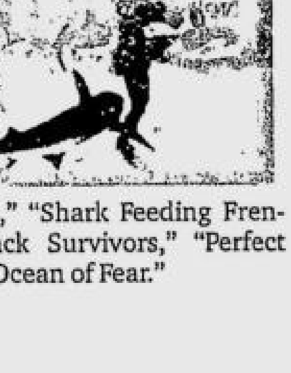
ETC Entertainment Central presents "Foody Call," a dating/cooking series based on the book, "Cook Your Way Into Her Pants" by Ted Taylor.

Every week, hosts Rossi Morreale and Michele Merkin get a loveless guy to cook a lip-smacking meal to win his way to his love interest's heart.

The series is aired every Monday, 9 to 9:30 p.m.

'Shark Week'

Discovery Channel celebrates "Shark Week" with 10 hours of shark programs from Monday to Sunday, starting with "Dirty Jobs: Jobs That Bite" on Nov. 26, 9 p.m.



Host Mike Rowe goes behind the scenes with the people who work with sharks.

The other programs are "Top Five: Eaten Alive," "Tribe," "Shark Feeding Frenzy," "Shark Attack Survivors," "Perfect Predators" and "Ocean of Fear."

Alfred's training day

Actor does his homework — to play a SWAT team member in a new action-drama

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

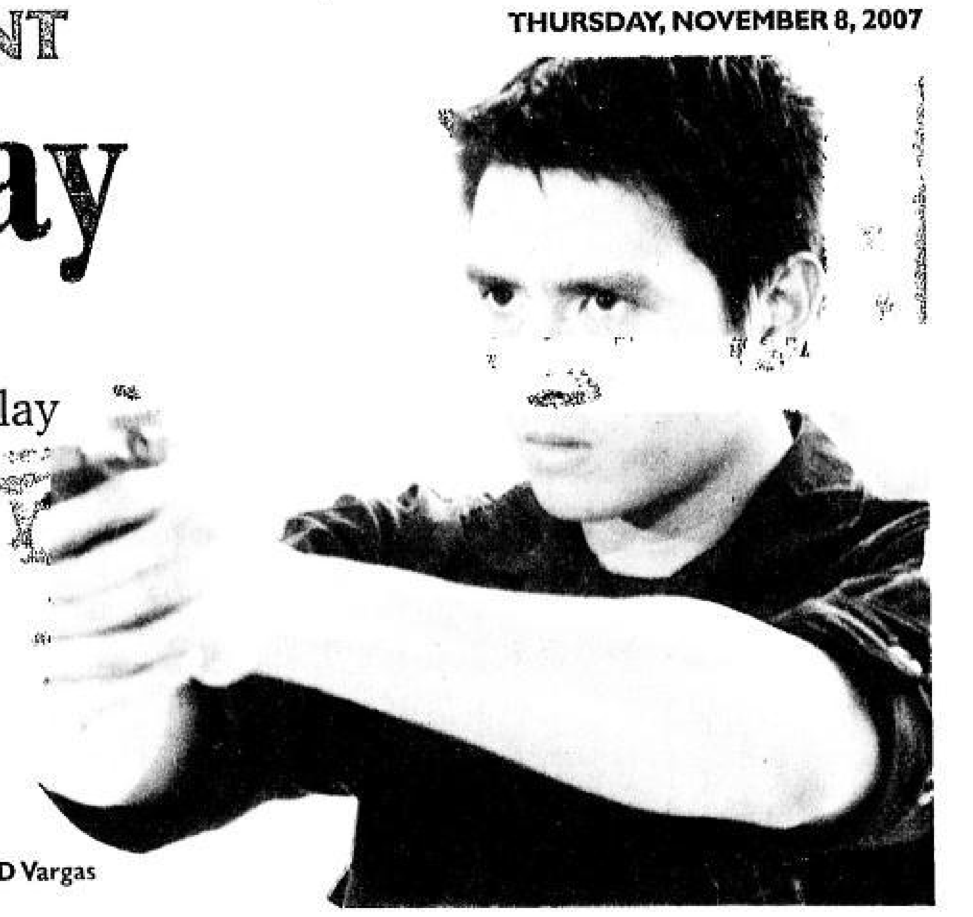
PHOTOS COURTESY OF BONG REYES AND COMGUILD PRODUCTION

TO PREPARE FOR HIS ROLE as a cop in Cesar Apolinario's "Banal," Alfred Vargas watched movies like "Training Day" and "Infernal Affairs."

A Management Economics graduate, he says he's been diligent about doing his acting homework ever since his Tanghalang Ateneo days.

Going a step further, Alfred transformed himself for the part. He not only got a crew cut, he also shed a few pounds for a leaner, meaner look.

An entry in this December's Metro Manila Film Festival, "Banal," according to Alfred, pushed him to the brink.



ALFRED Vargas

"It has a lot of physical demands," he notes. "There are lots of scenes showing us training to become SWAT [Special Weapons and Tactics unit] members. In one scene, our sadistic trainer [played by Christopher de Leon] kept kicking us."

The role had numerous "technical requirements" as well.

"In terms of characterization, we had to look convincing as SWAT members. From simple details like the way we carry a gun to more complicated nuances like adhering to the Standard Operating Procedures of a SWAT team."

To warm up to the role, Alfred and co-stars Paolo Contis and Paolo Paraiso took a crash course at the Southern Police District Headquarters Firing Range in Taguig.

"Our lessons had two parts: theory and practice. We had classroom training and target shooting practice," he recounts.

He thoroughly enjoyed his "training day."

"I wanted to feel what's it like to be a sharp shooter," he points out.

The film's director Cesar is impressed with his actors' dedication.

"They were very cooperative and supportive," he recalls.

Cesar took a leave from his job as a GMA 7 reporter to finish the movie. "We had a tight schedule and we couldn't afford to be late since I also had my original job waiting for me at the network."

CESAR Apolinario, right, directs the actor, shown here in full-battle gear.

His cast went beyond the call of duty, he says.

"Once, our call time was 2 a.m. Christopher, Alfred and the two Paolos arrived on the set even earlier than the crew," Cesar recalls.

He says that Alfred is "a revelation" in this action-drama.

"On TV, we only see him as the leading man, always the do-gooder. Here, he's doing something different," explains the debuting director.

"It's a complex character," Alfred says. "For a change, Paolo [Contis] is the good guy, while I'm the bad cop. We are casting against type in this film."

WITH "Banal" co-stars Paolo Contis, left, and Paolo Paraiso

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NOVEMBER 10
SATURDAY
11AM
BLOOMFIELDS

NOVEMBER 10
SATURDAY
4 PM
AIZA SEGUERRA

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SUNDAY
1 PM
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GAMEPLAN 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
30 DAYS OF NIGHT 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
LUST CAUTION 12:10 / 3:10 / 6:10 / 9:10
EL CANTANTE 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20
GHOST SON 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
UNREST 12:55 / 6:15
STARDUST 3:35 / 9:00
BALLS OF FURY 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
LIONS FOR LAMBS 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

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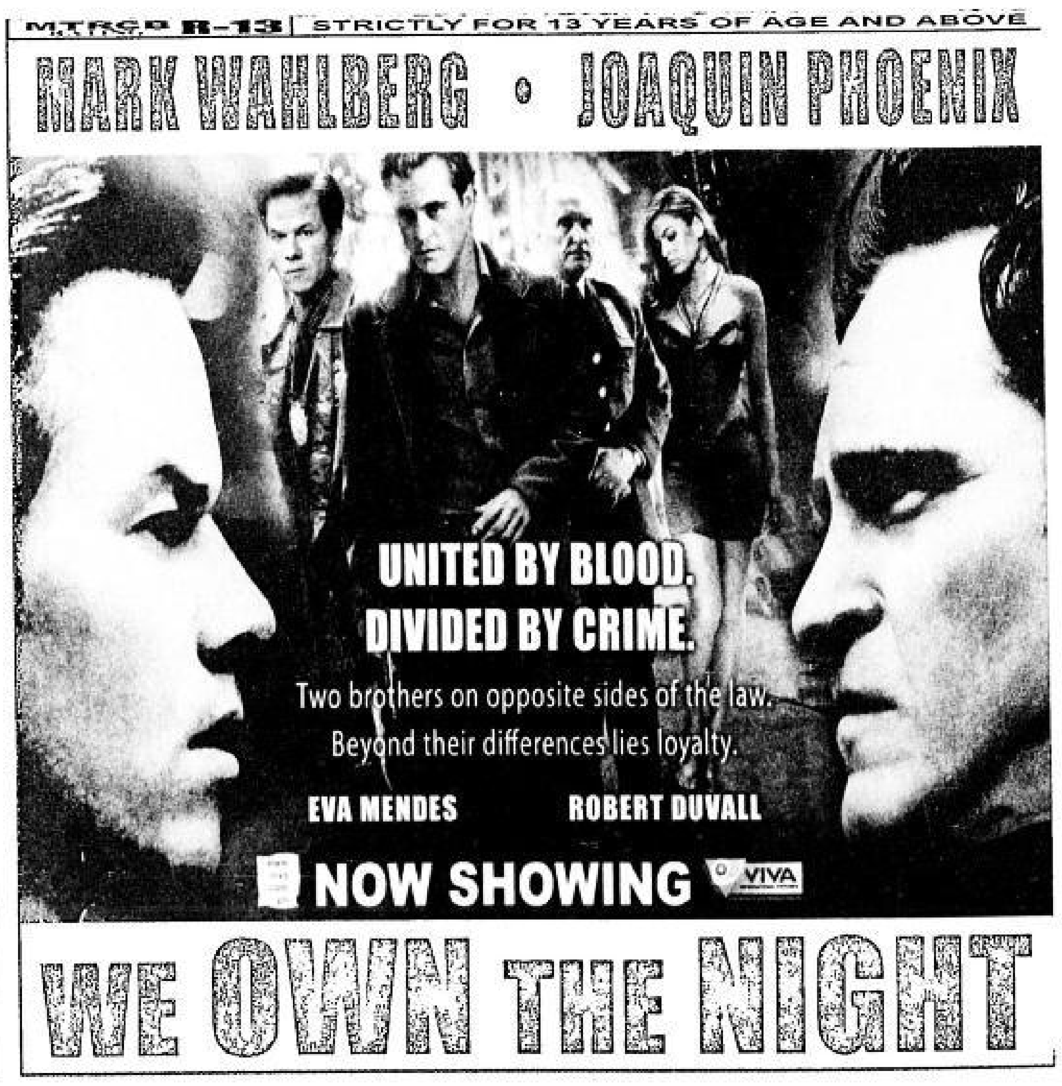

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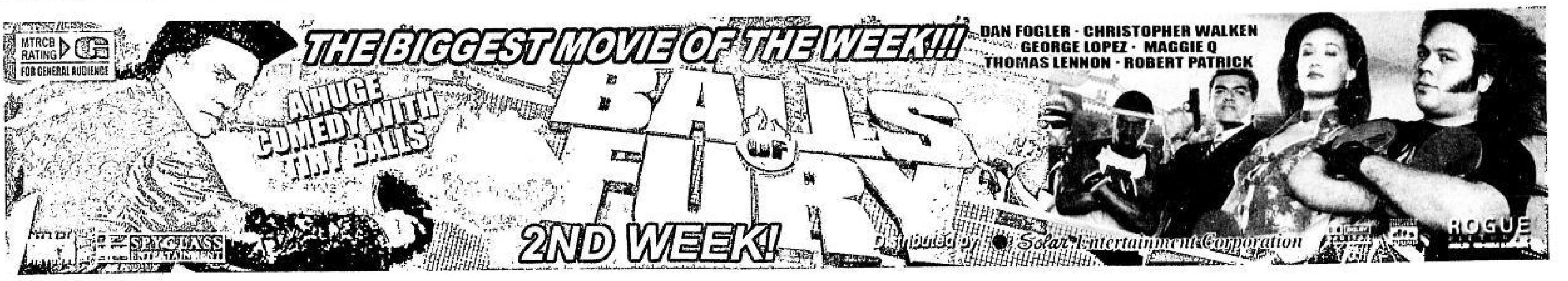
CHEER FACTOR

First canine Walk of Fame

LONDON—FAmous dogs including Lassie and Oscar-winning animated pooch Gromit were inducted into the world's first canine Walk of Fame Monday near the famous Battersea Dogs' Home in south-west London, as the four-legged version of the Hollywood pantheon was unveiled.

Other top hounds included Fang from the "Harry Potter" films and Toto from "The Wizard of Oz," although, disappointingly for some, Tintin's sidekick Snowy failed to make the cut. *AFP*



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BALLS OF FURY
2ND WEEK!
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